

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

# THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

April 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  
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](http://www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com)

Facebook: Lebanon Lutheran Church  
(ELCA)  
Instagram—Twitter : #llcsignsofgrace

Cold December flies away  
at the rose-red splendor.  
April's crowning glory breaks  
While the whole world wonders.  
- ELW 299

The resurrection is not dependent on the weather, however, Resurrection is God's act that guarantees God's desires for us and all creation live. We pray that when those desires unfold, they happen through us ( some will recognize Luther's Small Catechism here).

We have said goodbye to some good friends this season, and commend-ed them to God's eternal care. We have considered how to live hopeful lives ( some will recognize Lara's book title here). We have seen large scale acts of violence (I am thinking of Ukraine and the horrible acts of gun violence at Michigan State and so many other places).

I don't expect any one or two new laws will eliminate gun violence - - but enough acts and enough willpower and perhaps we will see the cul-ture change that has come to rely on guns to solve problems. There are better ways.

I don't expect any one or two laws about gay, lesbian or trans people will change hearts. But perhaps they and some will power on our part will make life safer and more honest. Resistance is strong in election years ( and when is it not an election year?). We are people of grace and resurrection - not condemnation nor rejection.

Some of our adults are facing some serious issues soon, and some of our young people have some life decisions to make. By encouragement and patience God's desires, whatever they turn out to be, will unfold. We are not all of one mind always of course - - We've all had different experiences and expectations. But we will not stop supporting one another, praying for one another, encouraging one another and discouraging violence and rejection. Our 'words and deeds will be pure and honorable' ( Luther again).

And it will be Easter.

Pastor Ogden



**April 2023**  
Fund of the Month  
**Good Gifts**



*Saturday, April 22, 2023*

**Websites of Interest**

[www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com](http://www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com)

[www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org)

[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

[www.whitelakescouting.com](http://www.whitelakescouting.com)

[www.whitelakechorale.com](http://www.whitelakechorale.com)

[www.hopescarves.org](http://www.hopescarves.org)

[LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org)

[www.samaritas.org](http://www.samaritas.org)

**Suicide Hotline** [1-800-273TALK.org](http://1-800-273TALK.org)  
[www.co.muskegon.mi.us/cmh/suicide\\_prevention](http://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/cmh/suicide_prevention)

**Every Woman's Place** 231-722-3333 or  
[www.everywomansplace.org](http://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.



*Sunday, April 2, 2023*  
*Worship at 10:15 am*



**Mystery Dinner**  
*(rescheduled from March 24)*

**April 21st - 6pm**

Please join us!



|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  | <p><b>North/West Lower Michigan Synod</b></p> <p><b>P.O. Box 517<br/>Dewitt, MI 48820</b></p> <p><b>517-321-5066</b><br/><a href="http://mittensynod.org">mittensynod.org</a></p> | <p><b>In this Issue:</b></p> <p>Save the Date!</p> <p>A Message from Pastor Anderson and Bishop Satterlee</p> <p>Revival</p> <p>2023 Synod Assembly</p> <p>Upcoming Events</p> <p>Congregations in Transition</p> |
|---|---|---|

### Save the Date!

This year on March 26, the Fifth Sunday in Lent, we will hear the story of Jesus calling Lazarus out of the tomb. "Lazarus, come out!" As we continue to live through a pandemic, natural disasters, global wars, and other divisions locally and nationally, it can feel overwhelming and tempting to stay in our "tombs." However, like Lazarus, Jesus calls us out of death and back into life. More and more, I hear Jesus saying, "People, come out!" Our synod's calendar certainly reflects this call. I invite you to look ahead with me and, where appropriate, mark your calendars and save the date.

**Chrism Service for Rostered Ministers:** Trinity Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, April 4 at 10:00am. This Holy Week worship service for rostered ministers includes the renewal of ordination promises and the blessing of oil for baptism and healing. The reason I love this service is that I get to preach the gospel to and for those who will lead us through Holy Week, our pastors and deacons. Worship will be followed by lunch. The Kalamazoo Conference invites pastors and deacons throughout our synod to join us. Contact Pastor Kjersten Sullivan ([pastor@tlcbattlecreek.org](mailto:pastor@tlcbattlecreek.org)) if you would like to attend.

**Synod Assembly:** Comfort Inn and Suites, Mt. Pleasant, May 7-9. Our theme is "It's about Jesus!" You will have opportunities to talk with others about Jesus and to hear stories of Jesus. Registration is now open! You can learn more here: <https://mittensynod.org/events/assembly>.

**Autumn Leadership Event:** St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, September 12. "Sharing the Story of Jesus with Youth and Young Adults" is the theme of the 2023 Autumn Leadership Event for Rostered Ministers. The presenter will be Jake Mulder of the Fuller Youth Institute, who is the author of the book *Growing Young*. More information about this event will be shared in the coming months.

**You Are Witnesses of These Things Retreat:** St. Francis Retreat Center, Dewitt, September 17-18. Pastor Sprang and I will lead a retreat planned especially for lay people to discuss the book *You Are Witnesses of These Things: Sharing the Story of Jesus* and to learn how to use it in your congregation. You can learn more and register here: <http://bit.ly/3lxBuBz>.

**My Burden is Light Preaching Retreat:** St. Francis Retreat Center, Dewitt, October 16-18. Join me for a three day retreat to discuss *My Burden is Light: Making Room for Jesus in Preaching*. The retreat is intended for pastors and deacons but all who care about preaching and the gospel are welcome to attend. We will consider how our relationship with Jesus influences preaching and hearing the gospel. You can learn more and register here: <https://bit.ly/3K5z0gc>.

**Small Catechism for Adults:** Beginning October 24. We will offer the second course in our Adult Theological Education Program this fall. Dr. Kit Kleinhans, Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, will teach Luther's Small Catechism for Adults for six weeks via Zoom. More information on this course will be shared in the coming months.

I am grateful for the grace and privilege of looking ahead. I believe that is the essence of life. I am thankful that Jesus is calling us back into life and pray that you are hearing his voice this Lent.

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

# 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  |

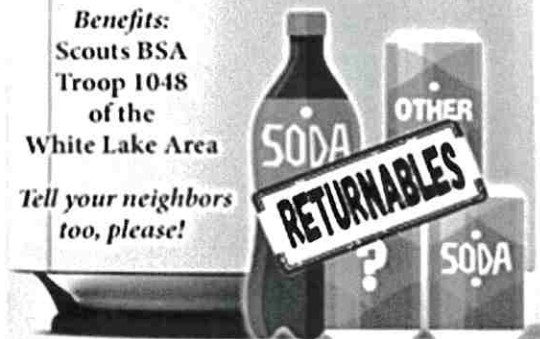
## SUNDAY AFTERNOONS 4:30 TO 6:30

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!



### White Lake Women's Club Spring Flower Sale

WLWC is now taking orders for a variety of spring plants. They are \$20 each and come in 11" pots.

The money is used for scholarships for Whitehall, Montague and Career Tech Center.

Please see Minnie Estlund, Shawn Erwin, Donna Stacy or Donna Will to place your order.

Now through April 11th

Plants will be available for pick up in the NBC school parking lot, Montague on May 13th!

(This is day before Mother's Day)

Maggie Foster from Samaritas will be our guest speaker on April 16, 2023.

# 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  
**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.  
**Dorothy Elliot**, (Brian Holmblade's sister), with inoperable cancer  
**Karl Glass**, with health concerns  
**Donna Jacobs**, (Don Jacobs mother) with kidney and heart issues  
**Shawn Jeffery**, Corneal transplant issues  
**Philip Holmblade**, (Brian Holmblade's brother), with health 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.



# Worship Notes

**Sunday, April 2 - Palm Sunday  
Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: Scarlet**

**Musician:  
Monica Ogden**

**Readings**

**Today we pray for:  
Doug & Dawn Brachmann**



**Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 26:14-27:66**

**Prayer of the Day**

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sunday, April 9 - Easter Sunday  
Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: White**

**Musician:  
Monica Ogden**

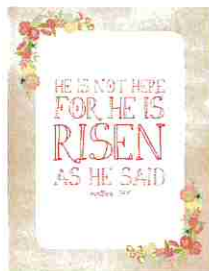
**Readings**

**Today we pray for:  
Darrel & Jeanette Otto**

**Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4  
Matthew 28:1-10**

**Prayer of the Day**

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



**Sunday, April 16 - Easter 2**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: White**

**Readings**

**Musician:**  
**Monica Ogden**

**Acts 2:14a, 22-32**  
**Psalm 16**  
**1 Peter 1:3-9**  
**John 20:19-31**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Brianna Clark**

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sunday, April 23 - Easter 3**  
**Worship - 10:15 am**

**Color: White**

**Readings**

**Musician:**  
**Monica Ogden**

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41**  
**Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19**  
**1 Peter 1:17-23**  
**Luke 24:13-35**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Mike & Kay Snell**

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sunday, April 30 - Easter 4**  
**Worship - 10:15 am**

**Color: White**

**Readings**

**Musician:**  
**Monica Ogden**

**Acts 2:42-47**  
**Psalm 23**  
**1 Peter 2:19-25**  
**John 10:1-10**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Andy & Wendy Shalifoe**

**Prayer of the Day**

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

April 2023



4/4 Brenda Koster  
4/5 Doug Aardema  
4/5 Hannah Bowen  
4/5 Ted Gribas  
4/7 Colby Eklund  
4/12 Jeff Otterman  
4/13 Irene Parks  
4/14 Erica Wyatt  
4/15 Rob Wahr  
4/16 Jay Otto  
4/17 Carla Nessa  
4/19 Tony DeNicolo

4/19 Jon Honoré  
4/21 Flo King  
4/23 Blake Brackmann  
4/24 Terry Kesteloot  
4/24 Scott Lamiman  
4/26 Nova Woodring  
4/27 Sarah Stacy Schmalz  
4/27 Tobias Lothschutz  
4/28 Kim Farnsworth



4/4/87 Mike & Lisa Clark  
4/30/77 Curt & Cheri Crouch





## Baptism Anniversaries



|                       |                            |                           |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4/1 Marty DeNicolo    | 4/6 Helen Bartlett         | 4/21 Holly Tenbrink Davis |
| 4/1 Elara DeMumbrum   | 4/6 Nancy Peterson         | 4/22 Nancy Dahl           |
| 4/1 Holly Hughes      | 4/7 Sheila Fretty          | 4/23 Terry Beekman        |
| 4/2 Richard Carlson   | 4/10 Ted Gribas            | 4/23 Tyler Grover, Jr.    |
| 4/3 John Parks        | 4/15 Louis Hosticka        | 4/24 Sandy Robbins        |
| 4/4 Richard Bernhardt | 4/17 Melissa Herring Kroll | 4/27 Heather Moss         |
| 4/5 Darrel Otto       | 4/18 Mary Carlson          |                           |

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.*



## Five ways to navigate market fluctuation



**1. Keep your long-term objectives and goals in mind.**

Investing takes the long view. Your financial strategy can help you weather market fluctuations and keep you on track toward your financial, life and generosity goals. Check in with your Thrivent financial professional when you have questions.



**2. Don't react.**

Your first reaction to fluctuations may be to buy or sell immediately. Keep in mind that an apparent loss in your portfolio is only realized if you sell your holdings. If you're thinking about making changes to your portfolio because of market fluctuations, be sure to consult your financial professional first.



**3. Consider buying when the market is down.**

Yes, prices always could fall further, but if you're invested for the long haul, you may want to consider if this is a good time to add to your investment portfolio.



**4. Diversify.**

You've heard the old adage: Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Having a mix of investments can help during market fluctuations. Stocks and bonds seldom move in step with each other. Losses in one asset class may be offset by gains (or less severe losses) in the other. Diversifying your portfolio can't promise profit or guarantee protection against loss, but can help you over the long run.



**5. Seek expert guidance.**

If you're losing sleep at night and realize your risk tolerance has changed, talk with your financial professional. He or she can help you match your financial strategy to your priorities. Contact your Whitehall Thrivent Financial Advisors Marci Bentz and Tony De Nicolo by calling 231-894-8886, texting 231-760-8246, or email [whitehalloffice@thrivent.com](mailto:whitehalloffice@thrivent.com) to arrange for an appointment.

Securities and investment advisory services offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., a registered investment adviser, member FINRA and SIPC, and a subsidiary of Thrivent, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Registered representative of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. Advisory services available through investment adviser representatives only. [Thrivent.com/disclosures](http://Thrivent.com/disclosures).

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## NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD - ELCA

North/West Lower Michigan Synod - ELCA  
PO Box 517, Dewitt MI 48820-0517  
517-321-5066 | [www.nwlfmsynod.org](http://www.nwlfmsynod.org)  
The Rev. Craig A. Satterlee Ph.D, Bishop  
Assistants: Rev. Rosanne Anderson and Rev. David E. Sprang



February 2023

Many of us have delighted in Dr. Wally Taylor's journey through the Corinthian correspondence this January and February. Paul has some of the greatest greetings in his letters. He is always thankful for partnership in the Gospel and the work of the Spirit that is happening. Even when he is about to scold one of the churches in his letters, still he thanks God for them, their work and their generosity.

*1 Corinthians 1:4-6 "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given to you in Christ Jesus, for every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind..."*

In the style of Paul, we as a synod, God's people together, give thanks for the grace of God within you. As we have closed the books on the year 2022 and entered 2023, with all its ups and downs, we give thanks for your partnership and generosity. As we hear of other synods with deep deficits, our synod council and its leaders have managed funds well.

It was a year of unknowns. Many congregations received Covid Funds in some way or another in 2020 and 2021, none of which were available in 2022. Congregations are back to worshipping in person but very few have attendance anywhere near what numbers were like a few years ago. The world has changed, the church is changing, but the Word of God stands fast. Through it all you, the congregations of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, have remained faithful and generous. Some are still struggling, while others were able to step up and give generously. We are the people of God together.

Through your generosity we have been able to make Lutheran Disaster Response gifts, we have supported new outreach ideas, we have cared for congregations in the call process, supported the all encompassing work of the ELCA, and assisted congregations in holy closure.

Paul also wrote to the Corinthians: *II Corinthians 9: 6 "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ...God loves a cheerful giver."*

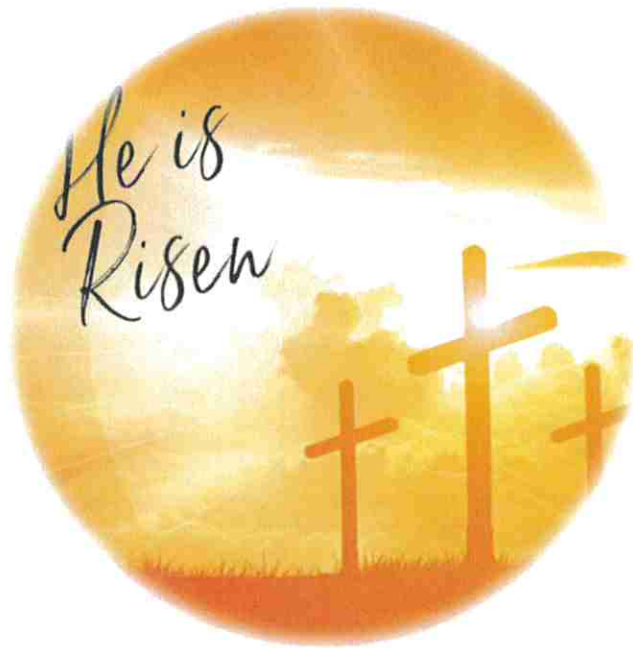
Partners in Ministry,

*Rev. David E. Sprang*

Rev. David E. Sprang  
Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

Enclosure: 2022Q4 (Nov 2022 – Jan 2023) Contribution Statement

Proclaiming Christ and prayerfully participating in Jesus' own work of reconciling the world to God's very self!



Thank  
\*you!

**A HUGE Thank you** to our Scrapbook Committee :  
**Barb Aardema, Irene Parks, Marie Hendrixon and Zoe Fretty** for all their time and hard work archiving, framing, and labeling the history of Lebanon and its members.



Trash Bash  
Sunday, April 23  
1:00-4:00pm  
Community-wide  
clean up!



Meet at  
Chamber Depot  
124 W. Hanson in  
Whitehall



Our annual Trash Bash,  
sponsored by Consumers Energy,  
is coming up on April 23!  
We need your help to clean up north and south  
of the bike trail, parks, shoreline areas, waterways, and more!

Come one, come all! Groups and volunteers with waders,  
kayaks, and/or canoes are greatly needed. WaterDog Outfitters  
will offer free kayak rentals the day of the event for those who  
would like to help clean up the waterways!

Meet at the Chamber of Commerce  
(124 W. Hanson St. in Whitehall) on Sunday, April 23rd at 1:00 pm where  
an action plan will be announced.

Volunteers are asked to dress accordingly with sunscreen, gloves,  
hats, etc. Trash bags will be supplied.

*\*There is no need to RSVP for this event.  
Click [here](#) to view the event on our web calendar,  
and click [here](#) for our Facebook event page!*

Event Sponsored by Consumers Energy.



## 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](mailto:office@lebanonlutheranchurch.com)  
(*best*)

