

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

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

May 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

Facebook: Lebanon Lutheran Church
(ELCA)

Instagram—Twitter : #llcsignsofgrace

The Trees

The trees are coming to leaf
Like something being said;
The recent buds relax and spread,
Their greenness is a kind of grief.

Is it that they are born again
And we grow old? No, they die too,
Their yearly trick of looking new
Is written down in rings of grin.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh
In full-grown thickness every May
Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh

*- Philip Larkin, British librarian and poet, who died
of cancer in 1985
this poem was recited by the great Isabella Rossini in
the movie Marcel the shell with shoes on*

Lebanon has long supported World Hunger campaigns through global Lutheran networks. Currently these efforts are called ELCA World Hunger. In years past, we encouraged giving to world hunger and sent the appeal the total monthly donation. It wasn't very exciting since no-one oversaw the check we wrote and never heard much about the results.

In 2007 Pastor Megan Crouch came to Lebanon to tell about her mission trip to India, and from that we committed ourselves to raise \$1000 in celebration of our anniversary as a congregation for ELCA Good Gifts. This is how we celebrate at Lebanon — we give things away.

Our Fund of the month for April raised over \$1200. We will ask the Generosity Committee to pick from items from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog, such as cows, tractors, a few ducks. so expect a celebration on June 4 when we present the check to the ELCA. It will be Lebanon's 151st anniversary, it also happens to be Pastor Crouch's birthday.

Pastor Ogden



May 2023
Fund of the Month
Synod Benevolence

Synod Assembly 2023

May 7-9, 2023 in Mt. Pleasant.

Wietse and Melanie Schaafsma and Pastor Ogden will be attending.

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

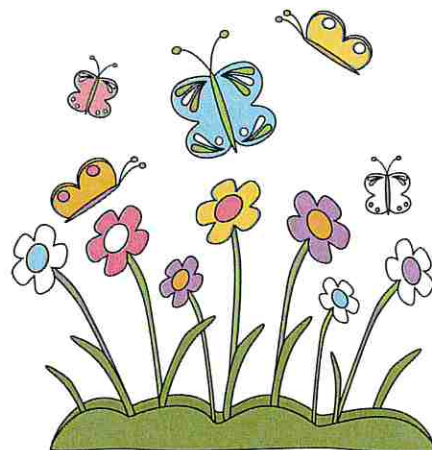
Every Woman's Place 231-722-3333 or
www.everywomansplace.org

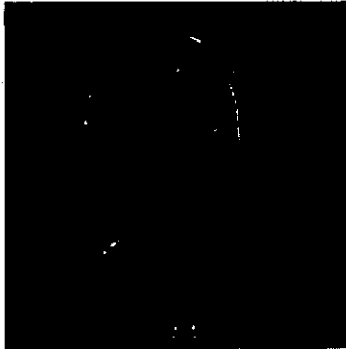
The Trevor Project 1-866-488-7386

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.

HAPPY 
MOTHER'S
Day! 

May 14, 2023





**North/West Lower
Michigan Synod**

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

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

In this Issue:

- Walking Our Way Through Easter
- Congregational Vitality Training
- Continuing Resolutions
- 2023 Synod Assembly
- Upcoming Events
- Congregations in Transition

Walking Our Way Through Easter

So how do you suppose Cleopas and his companion walked as they made their way along from Jerusalem to Emmaus? Did they meander mindlessly, lost in conversation? Or, determined to get out of Dodge, did their steps possess a certain spirit? Luke doesn't tell us. What we do know is that disappointment and despair affect us all differently.

Were you lucky...I guess I should say, were you "blessed"? Were you blessed enough to get caught up in the spirit of resurrection this Easter? How long did the feeling last? God has blessed you if you're still feeling it weeks later!

For too many of us, Easter worship was followed too quickly by the return of concerns. At some level, we wait for the bomb in the street, the phone call from the school, or the next breaking news. We have been confronted by the power of nature to destroy us. And we have come to be concerned that we might not be in control when the time comes for us to die. If we do a quick comparison between what the Gospel promises and what the Church delivers, we'll find ourselves lacking. And we have always been concerned about the past and about the future; we have always been concerned about the world around us and the secret thoughts and desires within us.

While we may not be ready to join Cleopas and his companion in saying, "But we had hoped that Jesus was the one to redeem Israel," we might be ready to admit that we had hoped that this would be the Easter when the whole world was redeemed. Looking for signs of resurrection leaves us wanting. We find ourselves shuffling along aimlessly or swaggering our way elsewhere, determined to get out of Dodge.

It's then, as we walk our way through Easter, that the risen Jesus overtakes us. Wouldn't it be great if the risen Christ turned the world upside down? But no, that's never been Jesus's style. Instead, Jesus asks us a simple question: "What are you discussing with each other as you walk along?" The question is so simple, so basic, that we don't recognize who is really asking it. Instead we see only a friend, a colleague, a teacher, a student, a loved one, a stranger.

"What are you discussing with each other as you walk along?" The question is so basic that it stops us dead in our tracks. "Don't you get it?" We ask. The world is exploding, the Church is in ruins, my self-worth is sinking, my family is in trouble. While Cleopas and his companion may have not gotten it that "the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory," we sometimes fail to get it that Christ's glory may not be in keeping with our expectations either for Jesus or for us. And Christ's glory might not arrive according to when we think Christ's glory should have happened, which, of course, is by now. And so our post-Easter walk home to Emmaus hasn't changed that much in two thousand Easters.

And, thankfully, neither has the risen Christ. Beginning, not with Moses, but with creation and flood, Abraham and Sarah, and all the family stories that we tell at the Great Vigil, Jesus speaks to and through us to declare that God will always, always, always, bring light out of darkness, hope out of despair, speech out of silence, peace out of violence, power out of weakness, dignity out of degradation, and life out of death.

Bishop (continued from page 3)

Opening the scriptures to us, Jesus risen opens our hearts as well. We feel our hearts burn within us, daring us to trust when trust is stupid; to believe when belief is foolish; to risk when risk is dangerous; to dream when the dream is lunacy. And if words are not enough, the risen Jesus gives us more—bread broken, the risen Christ revealed to us, at least for an instant, long enough for us to know that Jesus is here.

No, we are not told how Cleopas and his companion made their way to Emmaus that first Easter. We are told how they made their way back to Jerusalem. After the seven-mile journey, they rose at that very hour and returned. And so it is with us. It's only after we've been overtaken by the risen Jesus that we can authentically share the good news. It's only after we've experienced the risen Christ that we are empowered to go and be sent.

As we walk our way through Easter, it's not about straining to see signs of resurrection. It's about being overtaken by the risen Christ who asks what's on our hearts and minds. And, when we dare to tell him, this Jesus reveals to us God's living and loving presence in our midst. While we cannot know all the places that Jesus will overtake us as we walk our way through Easter and journey to our Emmaus, Jesus promises to be here when the Word is opened and when bread is broken and shared in Christ's name. Whatever our road to our Emmaus, Jesus will overtake us, moving us from sadness to joy, from despair to new hope, to witness to new life. For Christ is risen! Risen indeed!

Happy Easter!

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



Beginning in June 2023, work will begin on Mears Avenue to upgrade the road and sewer lines. Please use the alternate route of Division Street to enter our Parking Lot. Please avoid parking on the Mears side of the church to facilitate the construction crew / traffic.

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, now at daughter Carol Rood's 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.
Cheri Crouch, with health concerns
Margaret Everling, with health concerns
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).
Bob Palmatter (Cindy Albert's brother), with breathing difficulties.
John Parks, with health concerns
Roger Silk, with health issues.
Jan Troeger, (Cindy Albert's sister), suffered a stroke.



Worship Notes

Sunday, May 7 - Easter 5
Worship - 10:15am

Color: White

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

Today we pray for:
Mike & Sarah Schmalz
Ethan and Charlie

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, May 14 - Easter 6
Worship - 10:15am

Color: White

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Today we pray for:
Chris Schildt

Happy Mother's Day!

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Sunday, May 21 - Easter 7
Worship - 10:15am

Color: White

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

Today we pray for:
Shon Cook

Prayer of the Day

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, May 28 - Day of Pentecost
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Red

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23

Today we pray for:
Carol & Terry Deneke
Bentley

Prayer of the Day

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgement in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



May



5/1 Darrel Otto	5/16 Megan Ahrenholz
5/2 Eric Nelson	5/16 Andrew Hildebrandt
5/3 Monica Ogden	5/16 Barb Smith
5/4 Jeremy Bernhardt	5/18 Renae Silk
5/6 Ann Bloom	5/20 Dan Girvan
5/6 Lauren Nelson	5/21 Mitchell Clark
5/7 Arin (Snell) Bowen	5/21 Minnie Estlund
5/9 Kathleen Wiethoff	5/21 Juanita Holmblade
5/10 Lauralee Kesteloot	5/22 Phyllis Monte
5/10 Katie Shalifoe	5/25 Thomas Hildebrandt
5/11 Vicki Hinks	5/28 Elaine Liska
5/12 Mary Wendell	5/30 Art Plewka
5/14 Don Nelson	5/31 Elaine Stevens



5/6/78
5/1995
5/30/87

John & Becky Wahr
Wietse & Melanie Schaafsma
Scott & Katherine Keller

Baptism Anniversaries



5/1 Elaine Skinner	5/9 Bob Palmer	5/19 Dakota King
5/1/ Jenna Brown	5/11 Todd Lamiman	5/19 Jim King
5/2 Allie Ogden	5/12 Jay Otto	5/22 Nancy Dahl
5/4 Wendy Shalifoe	5/13 Brad Carlson	5/29 Lisa Clark
5/6 Ray Lathrop	5/14 Jeannette Otto	5/30 Dean Roesler
5/6 Sarah (Lathrop) Hosta	5/15 Matthew Parman	5/31 Shawn Erwin
5/6 Bernice Schuitema	5/16 Donna Knoth	5/31 Taylor Hughes
5/7 Zoe Fretty		
5/7 Krysten Hosticka		

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.”

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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.



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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.

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Thrivent Charitable - Consider Charitable Giving

We believe humanity thrives when people make the most of all they've been given. Sharing your money and assets with others is a way that you can give from the heart and help support the people and causes that matter to you.

Whether you want to leave a legacy for those you love, support your church or community, or give back to nonprofits you care about, we can help you spread generosity and make an impact in the world, your way.

Charitable fund options-Immediate or long-term charitable support

- Advise-As-You-Go Fund
- Designated Fund
- Scholarship Funds
- Cause or Area-of-Interest Fund
- Thrivent Charitable Impact Funds
- Endowment Funds

Ways to give

- Give now
- Give later
- Give and receive

Learn more

Your **Whitehall Thrivent Financial Advisors** are here to help you carry out your giving goals.

Contact **Marci Bentz and Tony De Nicolò** to learn more about setting up a strategy for planned giving.

Contact the Whitehall office by calling 231-894-8886, texting 231-760-8246, or email whitehalloffice@thrivent.com.



Living in God's Amazing Grace

Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 South Mears Avenue
Whitehall, MI 49461

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)



Remember -
our fallen heroes.
They are the reason
that we are free.

The Church office will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023 in observance of Memorial Day.