

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

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

July 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 long green season of Pentecost highlights our growth in the spirit of holiness and grace. It means refreshing the body and the soul. We have so many opportunities to make things happen in our community we can hardly help ourselves but discover God's grace all around. We grow deeper and reach wider

In July, August and September we welcome Lea Bereniova from Bratislava, thanks to the Parks family and those who financially support having her and those who will enjoy her company in their own homes. If you have an event this summer that you would like to invite Lea to participate in, just ask the host family for that time. It enriches her connections to our congregation and deepens her experience with our church and its members.

From July 16-20 we will inaugurate a new Vacation Bible School for 5 to 8 year old, and we need your help. It will begin with a potluck dinner and opening from 5 to 6 pm. While the young ones are off to their activities adults will look at Luther's catechisms and our faith life together, until we close at 7 pm.

Swim lessons are back! We have one session, three classes for 4-9 year olds at the Crouch pool August 7-9, 14-16. If we can find a second instructor, we hope to have a second session, since Katy Girvan Barron has given us permission to use their pool just two blocks from church.

Deeper into August we will have our Back To School event, but now is the time to plan, to order supplies, and to contact the agencies and organizations we want. By the time. You receive this newsletter our first organizational meeting will have taken place, working with the Whitehall Schools PTO and school staff.

You may be wondering about our summer smorgasbord event. The people in charge have been looking at a September date (it's cooler in September than mid-July!) and will announce the possibilities soon. I have suggested it could be a Swedish/Slovak menu since Lea likes to cook, but that is entirely up to the planners.

The Adult Forum will continue to meet throughout the summer, 9 am on Sundays. Please consider yourselves invited. The quilting group will continue to meet Mondays at 10:30 am and would welcome your help. The scout troop will be in the Fourth of July parade, and will meet at Fruitland Twp park in the summer and participate in Scout Summer camp. The Cub scouts don't meet in the summer but also will attend camp. And one of our boy scouts will be at the World Jamboree in South Korea.

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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/emh_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 Church office
will be closed on
Tuesday, July
4th.*



VBS 2023 July 16-20

Lebanon Lutheran Church,
1101 S. Mears
Whitehall, MI 49461 893-5745

GENERAL INFO:

Limited to the first 25 applicants
Ages - 5 to 8 year-olds
Dinner begins at 5:00 pm -
Program until 7:00pm

FOOD:

Dinner and beverages provided

CLOTHING:

We will be outside, and we will be
doing messy things. Please
dress kids accordingly - and
don't forget the sunscreen!
Your child may need a swimsuit
and towel during the week.
Please label towels, clothes.

OTHER:

Special closing program Friday -
please join us!

We hope you can join us July 16-20 for
this year's adventure-themed program of
faith-filled fun!

Please return the registration form
to Lebanon Lutheran Church, call
893-5745,

www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com
office@lebanonlutheranchurch.com

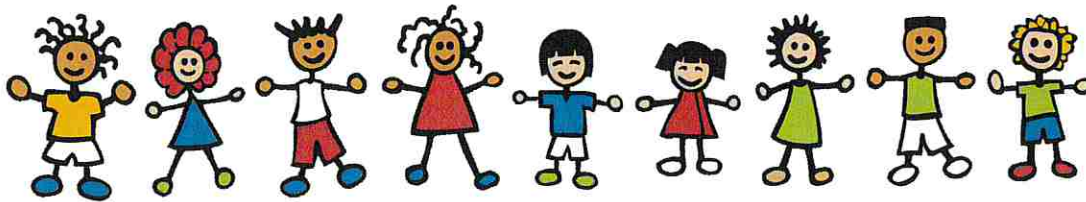
Registration Forms are available on
the desk by church office and on
our website listed above

Pastor's Notes (continued from page 1)

As a sign of resurrection, Jesus cooked breakfast on the beach for his disciples. Do enjoy the beach this summer. Go for a walk in the sand, kayak, canoe, watch the sunset, admire the stars, water your vegetable garden. Grow. Refresh. Converse. Encourage one another. You are a royal priesthood, God's own people so that you may declare the wonderful deeds of the One who called you out of darkness into marvelous light. But even the summer darkness is refreshing.

Pastor Ogden





VBS 2023

July 16-20

Lebanon Lutheran Church
1101 S. Mears Avenue, Whitehall, MI 49461
231-893-5745

For Ages 5 to 8 year-olds
Limited to the first 25 applicants
Dinner begins at 5:00 pm followed by the program until 7pm.
No Cost

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 daughter Carol Roods' home now.
Mary Bernhardt, at Robinswood Assisted Living #115 (Kay Snell)
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.
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.
Ken Kolb, with health issues
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, (Barb Aardema's friend), doctors are continuing to monitor health following stem-cell replacement 5/22/22
Bob Palmatter (Cindy Albert's brother), with breathing difficulties.
Pastor Sarah Samuelson, recently diagnosed with colo-rectal cancer
Wendy Shalifoe, undergoing chemo treatments
Roger Silk, with health issues.
Barb Smith, with health concerns
Brenda Smith, (friend of Christie Phillips) hospitalized with health issues.
Verne "Barney" Sutherland, with serious heart issues
Jan Troeger, (Cindy Albert's sister), suffered a stroke.



Worship Notes

Sunday, July 2 - Pentecost 5

Color: Green

Worship - 10:15am

**Musician:
Monica Ogden**

Readings

**Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42**

**Today we pray for:
Al & Michele Wheeler**

Prayer of the Day

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your world and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Sunday, July 9 - Pentecost 6
Worship - 10:15am**

Color: Green

**Musician:
Monica Ogden**

Readings

**Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

**Today we pray for:
Rachel & Cory Bartlett
Jon and Abby**

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, July 16 - Pentecost 7
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Today we pray for:
Tom Foster

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, July 23 - Pentecost 8
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Today we pray for:
Jenny & Zoe Fretty

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By our Spirit nurture us who live in kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, July 30 - Pentecost 9
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-3, 44-52

Today we pray for:
Mary Koenen

Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

July 2023



7/1 Molly Crouch Mooren
7/1 Kareece Johnson
7/2 Zoe Courneya
7/2 Frank Lundell Jr.
7/3 Raegan Murphy
7/3 Reilly Murphy
7/3 Rhonda Sweet
7/4 David Civis
7/4 Eric Johnson
7/5 Michele Wheeler
7/6 Diane Eastman
7/8 Donna Frietsch
7/9 Tyler Grover
7/9 Michael Palmer
7/10 Robert Ackerman
7/10 Caryn Koster
7/11 Lindsey Schenten
7/12 Rick Hughes
7/13 Mitchell Foster
7/13 Emily Snell Glass
7/16 Cindy Frale

7/16 Morgan Hughes
7/16 Judy Kurtz
7/17 Joel Fretty
7/18 Brooke Otto
7/19 Barb Reese
7/22 Terry Beekman
7/23 Jennifer Fretty
7/26 Matthew Everitt
7/29 Sophia Walters
7/31 Patricia DeNicolò



7/1/16	Daniel and Arin Bowen
7/6/74	Al & Michelle Wheeler
7/11/78	Jim & Stephanie Emms
7/19/69	Brian & Juanita Holmblade
7/28/18	Ken and Kathy (Pelleran) Mahoney
7/30/11	Charles & Sally Jackson

Baptism Anniversaries



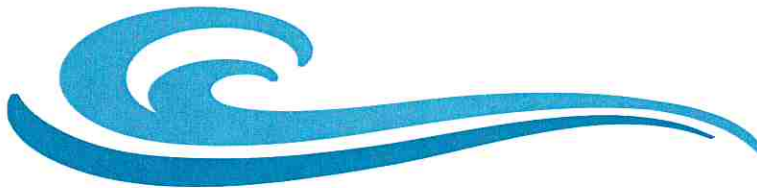
7/2 Eric Nelson
7/2 Drake Otto
7/2 Jay R. Otto
7/8 Monica Ogden
7/12 Arin Snell Bowen

7/14 Carla Nessa
7/19 Kelsey Fretty
7/23 Brianna Clark
7/25 Christie Phillips
7/29 Marlene Holmstrom

7/30 Gina 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.”



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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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1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
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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!

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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.

26087 R12-18

Thrivent Adds a new Multi-Year Guarantee Annuity to its Broad Portfolio of Financial Products and Solutions

The deferred fixed annuity solution is designed to help Thrivent clients achieve their long-term financial goals through guaranteed returns

Thrivent recently announced the launch of its Multi-Year Guarantee Annuity TM (MYGA) product solution. This deferred fixed annuity gives Thrivent clients a flexible solution for today's interest rate environment and offers multiple guaranteed fixed rate options along with the features and tax benefits of a traditional annuity

Thrivent's MYGA offers its clients a guaranteed interest rate over 3, 5, 7 or 9-year periods, allowing them to lock in today's high interest rates over multiple consecutive years. Depending on their financial goals, clients can choose a market value adjustment feature – which offers a higher interest rate – or a return of premium option that allows them to surrender at any point, providing additional liquidity. The MYGA solution can be especially attractive for pre-retirees and retirees who want to safely and steadily grow their retirement income during a period when they're approaching or already living on a fixed income. It could also be used to help clients diversify their portfolios, incorporate tax efficiency into their retirement strategies or leave a legacy for their loved ones.

Contact your Whitehall Office Financial Advisors, Marci Bentz and Tony De Nicolo by calling 231-894-8886, texting 231-760-8246 or email whitehalloffice@thrivent.com for more information.



**North/West Lower
Michigan Synod**

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

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

In this Issue:

"It's about Jesus!"

2023 Synod Assembly

Congregational Vitality - REVIVE

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

"It's about Jesus!"

In May, members of our synod gathered at Synod Assembly under the theme "It's about Jesus!" Those who attended were uplifted by being together and encouraged by sharing the story of Jesus with one another. A selection of videos, which can be used in congregations is available on the Synod's YouTube channel in the "It's about Jesus!" playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/northwestlowermichigansynod>

Throughout the Synod Assembly, and in the weeks after it, we have heard from many how the theme resonated with them and how sharing the story of Jesus with each other led to insightful, inspiring, and deeply meaningful conversations. We've also heard this from congregations who are currently reading and using our resource *You Are Witnesses of These Things* to become more comfortable sharing the story of Jesus with each other and their communities. We as a Synod Staff certainly agree that sharing the story of Jesus, for no other reason than because it is such good news, is inspiring, encouraging, meaningful, engaging, and fun. And we know that doing so is important and necessary as a synod and the larger church.

For our synod, "It's about Jesus!" is more than an assembly theme. It's our focus and aim to strengthen our people's relationship with Jesus so that we are all empowered and eager to share the story of Jesus with others, especially with those for whom it is new. As such, we have applied for a grant from the Lilly Endowment's Compelling Preaching Initiative to support our "It's about Jesus!" Program, which aims to make preaching in our congregations more Christ-centered and increase our proclamation of Christ beyond our congregations by motivating and empowering our people to witness to Jesus for no other reason than Jesus is life-changing, world-shaping, good news. More information on the grant and program is available here: <https://bit.ly/3jaVTqU>

In addition to the "It's about Jesus!" program, we are building upon this theme and responding to our synod's desire to gather with each other, learn together, and be inspired by holding a series of events designed to provide these opportunities. These events will begin this fall and we strongly encourage you to learn more about them and register for those designed for you.

Mission Support River Cruise: In August, we will hold our second mission support river cruise. We invite leaders from congregations that give the highest percentage to mission support or have grown the most in mission support and individuals who contribute financially to our Living Stones Initiatives. We are committed to saying thank you for your financial support. We thank Ms. Karla Chamberlain, a member of Synod Council and Grace in Lansing, for making this cruise possible. It's fun to talk about Jesus and generosity.

Autumn Leadership Event for Rostered Ministers: The theme of this year's event is "Sharing the Story of Jesus with Youth and Young Adults." The Rev. Jake Mulder, Assistant Chief of Leadership Formation at Fuller Seminary, Senior Advisor for the Fuller Youth Institute, and co-author of the book *Growing Young*, will be the keynote presenter. This event will be held on September 12, 2023 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids. We are offering this year's event as a 1-day event to provide more flexibility and a lower cost for attendees. Those looking to extend their stay for more conversation may make their own arrangements. Registration information will be available soon!

Continued from page 1

You Are Witnesses of These Things Retreat: On September 17-18, 2023, we will hold a two-day retreat centered on the book, *You Are Witnesses of These Things: Sharing the Story of Jesus*. This retreat is an opportunity to experience the joy and fun in sharing the story of Jesus for no reason other than Jesus is such life-giving good news. It is also an occasion to train those interested in using this book with groups in their congregations. The retreat's primary audience is the baptized, people of God, or lay people but pastors and deacons are heartily welcome. The retreat will be held at the St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt. The cost of the retreat center prohibits giving a discount to people who choose to commute to the retreat. Learn more and register: <https://bit.ly/3IxBuBz>

My Burden is Light Preaching Retreat: On October 16-18, 2023, we will hold a three day retreat to discuss *My Burden is Light: Making Room for Jesus in Preaching*. The retreat will be held at the St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt. It is designed for preachers; however, anyone who cares about preaching is welcome to attend. The cost of the retreat center prohibits giving a discount to people who choose to commute to the retreat. Learn more and register: <https://bit.ly/3K5z0gc>.

Adult Theological Education: The Rev. Dr. Kit Kleinhans, Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, will teach Luther's Small Catechism for Adults for six weeks beginning October 24, 2023. The class be held via Zoom. It's been fun to see how people across our synod gathered for our first class in January and February. Many met at their church to watch the lecture together and then gathered for coffee a day after the class for discussion. These classes are designed for both lay people and rostered ministers. Registration information will be available soon!

Empowering Our Buildings to Share the Story of Jesus: On November 4, 2023, Pastor Sprang will hold an event at Trinity in Battle Creek to help us to empower our buildings to share the story of Jesus. This event is an opportunity to explicitly name ministries that bring people into our congregations as extensions of Jesus's own ministry and is designed for rostered ministers, congregation leaders, and anyone else who would like to attend. Registration information will be available soon!

We have a full schedule of synod events planned and details will be coming quickly. I encourage you to pay attention to the Weekly Update emails, the Synod's website and social media, and my Take One videos. This summer, I pray we all are granted time to spend in the beauty of God's creation in our own State of Michigan.

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





Margaret Everling will be having surgery on July 18th. She will be out of the office for the remainder of the week (18,19,20,21)

If you are interested in volunteering to cover a few hours during her absence, please let either Margaret or Pastor Ogden know.

Thank You!



We welcome our 2023 Summer Intern, Lea Beréniová to Lebanon Lutheran! Please introduce yourself when you see her around Lebanon this summer.

♦ **Swim Lessons**



Swim lessons begin **August 7, 8, 9 and August 14,15,16**
(August 16th is make-up date)

Lessons : 1:30 pm to 3:30pm

**Session 1 - 1:30-2:00 - 5 & 6 year olds /
beginners**

**Session 2 - 2:10-2:40 - 5 & 6 year olds /
beginners**

Session 3 - 2:45-3:30 - 7 & 9 year olds

Pool Location: 1230 Schuler, Muskegon 49445

Limited to 6 students per session

Cost : \$60 per registrant

Certified swim instructor will be conducting the lessons.

Registration forms are available on our website:
www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com or pick up a form
from the church office. By phone: 231-893-5745



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)

