

**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 Jackel
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 : #lcsignsofgrace**

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

# THE LIGHT



## Pastor's Notes

September 2023

Recently the ELCA sent out a survey, as it does periodically, on what people are looking for out of the churchwide organization. You may have seen it on Lebanon's Facebook page or received it in an email. The ELCA takes these responses seriously, but recognizes it's impossible to satisfy everyone.

The ELCA's deepest need, and Lebanon's too is to get better at telling our neighbors how different we aspire to be in our message.

We are not Christian Nationalism, we do not believe God only likes our kind. We do not believe you have to make a statement or do a deed before you can receive God's (and our) love and acceptance. We have been trying for decades to explain what evangelical means in our name, which is nearly the opposite of the judgementalism and disapproval the word has come to mean.

We seek wholeness and healing for the world, and recognize who fragile those can be - - how fragile people are - - how fragile the earth itself can be.

We believe love changes people, and when we love and serve those who believe the horrible message they are unlovable and it changes them and us.

How do we show the world our message is "come as you are, leave how you would like to be" if your deepest hopes were realized.

Jesus showed us how cruel the world can be with all its many crosses; Jesus also showed us how renewed the world can be. Jesus' resurrection presence is all around us. When we serve, when we love, when we not only welcome but seek out, a loving God is suddenly revealed.

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**September 2023**  
**Fund of the Month**  
**STEWARDSHIP**

goodbye, august  
hello, september

**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)

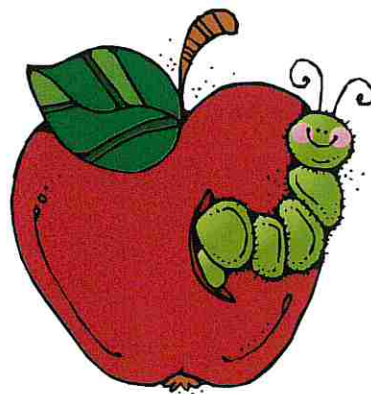
[www.samaritas.org](http://www.samaritas.org)

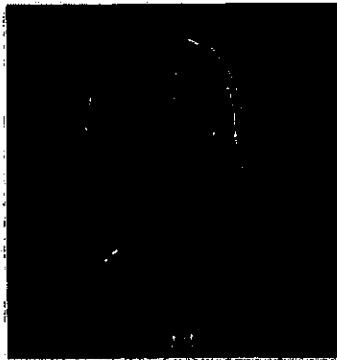
**Suicide Hotline** [1-800-273TALK.org](http://1-800-273TALK.org)  
[www.co.muskegon.mi.us/cmh/suicide\\_prevention](http://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/cmh/suicide_prevention)

**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.





**North/West Lower  
Michigan Synod**

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

**517-321-5066  
[mittensynod.org](http://mittensynod.org)**

## **In this Issue:**

Weight Watchers

Connect Grants

Adult Theological Education

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

## **Weight Watchers**

Encouraged by my mother, doctor, and a friend, and supported by my wife, I returned to Weight Watchers after a 20-year hiatus. On Wednesday mornings, I hold myself accountable to the scale and attend a 30-minute workshop. I cannot help but compare and contrast the workshop to the church and I am startled by my reflections.

First, at Weight Watchers, everyone knows and names the reason they attend the workshop: to lose weight. To lose weight, we need the accountability of scale (sometimes akin to public confession), the wisdom of the program (the word), and the companionship with people who understand because they are on the same journey.

No one talks of "my Weight Watchers family" or frets that, if new people don't come, the workshop will be cancelled. We are instructed to RSVP to the workshop and I suspect that, like branch offices in business or courses in a college curriculum, if a workshop is undersubscribed, it will be cancelled. It's about fulfilling the purpose not preserving the group.

I also hear anecdotally that, while attending a workshop online is fine, it is not the same as showing up in person and stepping on the scale. The time may come, sooner than we expect, when we can abandon our buildings and green screen our beloved worship spaces for all those content to worship online.

Why do you come to church? What is your church's purpose? As we study the trends and statistics, it occurs to me that Jesus might be joining me in trying to lose weight and get his body in shape for what is to come. And Jesus may be more concerned with pursuing his purpose than preserving a group. So, what is your church's purpose? Permit me to suggest three from which to choose:

- "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). Church might be the workshop where we go to have our beliefs strengthened and to learn to confess Jesus Christ by sharing the story of Jesus.
- "We will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ" (Ephesians 4:16). The church is a workshop where we learn to become better and more holy people, imitators of Christ, through Bible study, prayer, worship, and generous giving.
- "They asked only one thing, that we remember the poor, which was actually what I was eager to do" (Galatians 2:10). It seems Paul and the other apostles had strong disagreements. Yet, they agreed on this. Remembering the poor might be a unifying purpose.

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Bishop continued from Page 3

If you don't like these three, open your Bible, and find one of your own. What's important is that the purpose be one that your church can agree is as real and relevant as losing weight is to those who attend a Weight Watchers workshop. But showing up to preserve the group isn't it.

Second, I am also astounded at the way the people at the Weight Watchers workshop are hard on themselves and genuinely gracious with others. They are stern with themselves for slips, mistakes, and succumbing to temptation that results in gaining weight. And they are overly gracious to someone else who does the same. How can the church become better at judging ourselves and being gracious to others? My immediate response is to read the Gospels and imitate Jesus.

Lastly, I wonder what congregations and the church would learn about themselves if we tracked how we spend our time and money in the same way that we on Weight Watchers track everything we eat. We might learn our actual purpose and how we are treating ourselves and one another. Then we can determine what, if anything, we need to change as Jesus gets his body in shape.

I pray you are having a refreshing summer!

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

From Our Hands / Samaritas - Spring / Summer 2023, Issue No. 14

## Modern Affordable Housing in Muskegon



**YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS**

**APPLY NOW** <<<

(231) 900 - 1414  
Schedule a tour today!

Seniors with limited means who want independence, privacy, and a sense of community may find Samaritas Affordable Housing communities the ideal place to thrive gracefully.

Our newest Muskegon community features 53 one-bedroom apartments at the corner of Spring Street and Webster Avenue in downtown Muskegon.

Eligible seniors of this upscale building will like the modern appliances, spacious closets, and proximity to the Downtown Muskegon Social District.

## 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 daughter Carol Roods' home now.  
**Mary Bernhardt**, at Robinswood Assisted Living #115 (Kay Snell)  
**Marlene Holmstrom**, at home  
**Ken Kolb**, with health issues  
**Sandy Kolb**, hip replacement surgery  
**Elaine Liska**, at White Lake Assisted Living - Whitehall  
**Phyllis Monte**, at Legacy of Caring - Whitehall  
**Gil Norwick**, with health concerns - surgery 8/9  
**Ruth Nurmi**, with health concerns  
**Nancy Peterson**, at Heartland, Room #405 B  
**Barb Smith**, at Legacy of Caring - Whitehall  
**Marty Windbacher**, at home

Special Prayer Concerns:

**Lucas Carlson**, (Terry and Mary Beekmans grandson) for new treatment.  
**Margaret Fountain**, (Mary Koenen's sister) diagnosed with multiple myeloma  
**Karl Glass**, with health concerns  
**Ted Gribas**, knee replacement  
**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).  
**Pastor Sarah Samuelson**, recently diagnosed with colorectal cancer  
**Wendy Shalifoe**, undergoing chemo treatment  
**Verne "Barney" Sutherland**, with serious heart issues

**For our partners in faith**, our companion synods in Salud para la Vida in San Pedro Sula, Honduras for their mission and ministry in their place as we fulfill our mission in our place; for all the churches of the Lutheran World Federation, for people of the gospel throughout the world.

**Each week we pray for one of our members or families. This week we pray for : Karen and Dave Bruder**

*Congregation Prayers for September 2023: Rick & Holly Hughes;  
Laura Hollister; Danielle & Don Jacobs and family.*



## Worship Notes

**Sunday, September 3 - Pentecost 14**

**Color: Green**

**Worship - 10:15am**

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

**Readings**

**Jeremiah 15:15-21**  
**Psalm 26:1-8**  
**Romans 12:9-21**  
**Matthew 16:21-28**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Karen & David Bruder**

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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**Sunday, September 10 - Pentecost 15**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: Green**

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

**Readings**

**Ezekiel 33:7-11**  
**Psalm 119:33-40**  
**Romans 13:8-14**  
**Matthew 18:15-20**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Rick & Holly Hughes**

**Prayer of the Day**

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**





**Sunday, September 17 - Pentecost 16**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: Green**

**Readings**

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

**Genesis 50:15-21**  
**Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13**  
**Romans 14:1-12**  
**Matthew 18:21-35**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Laura Hollister**

**Prayer of the Day**

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Sunday, September 24 - Pentecost 17**  
**Worship - 10:15 am**

**Color: Green**

**Readings**

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

**Jonah 3:10-4:11**  
**Psalm 145:1-8**  
**Philippians 1:21-30**  
**Matthew 20:1-16**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Danielle & Don Jacobs & family**

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgement, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



# September 2023



9/1 Lorey Montgomery  
 9/1 Megan Nelson  
 9/2 Richard Bernhardt  
 9/2 Anna Slamkowski  
 9/3 Paula Williamson  
 9/5 Heather Wiethoff  
 9/6 Melissa Berry  
 9/6 Marlene Holmstrom  
 9/6 Deb (Statz) Peabody  
 9/7 Josh Keller  
 9/8 Robin Civis  
 9/8 Darlene Willbrandt  
 9/8 David Pearson  
 9/10 Valerie Johnson  
 9/11 Brian Jaekel  
 9/12 Dennis Roesler II  
 9/13 Zachary Bowen  
 9/14 Alice Hollister  
 9/18 Mary Carlson  
 9/18 Bob Palmer  
 9/18 Sue Roesler

9/19 Dale Bouck  
 9/19 Cheri Crouch  
 9/19 Shawn Erwin  
 9/20 Robert Lathrop  
 9/21 Chad Parks  
 9/22 Jason Roesler  
 9/23 Jodi Emms  
 9/23 Stephen Ogden  
 9/24 Chris Soraruf  
 9/25 Peter Fretty  
 9/25 Helen Allshouse  
 9/26 Kerri Bernhardt  
 9/27 Nate Aardema  
 9/27 Linda Meier  
 9/28 Kim Nelson  
 9/28 Mark Will  
 9/29 Linda Everitt  
 9/29 Tom Foster  
 9/29 Jeffrey Soraruf



9/4/93	Jay & Mardi Otto
9/8/18	Frank and Alice Hollister
9/6/2014	Michael and Rebecca (Stacy) Chynoweth
9/9/77	Mike & Kay Snell
9/11/82	Rick & Holly Hughes
9/13/14	Carol Ann (Deneke) & Terry
9/14/03	Terry and Mary Beekman
9/17/22	Jeffrey & Macie Hendrixon
9/19/92	Dwight & Michelle Roesler
9/22/90	Don & Amy Romain
9/23/72	Roger & JoAnne Silk
9/26/87	Jim and Flo King
9/26/92	Troy and Mary Gallihugh
9/29/61	Karl & Shirley Glass



## Baptism Anniversaries



9/7	Lois Szczerbinski	9/19	Jessica Gelvin
9/11	Ethan Reynolds	9/20	Brittney Roesler
9/13	Wayne Roesler	9/23	Brooke Otto
9/18	Molly Crouch Mooren	9/29	Morgan Hughes
9/18	Brianne Roesler		

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](http://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?

**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](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

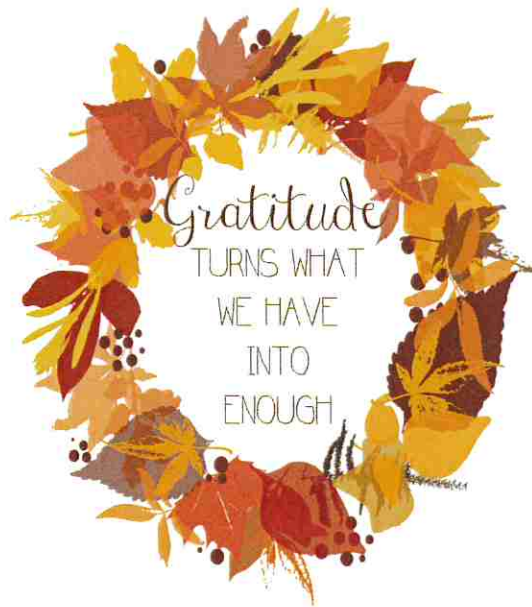
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I wish for you a fall filled with gratitude and generosity, love and laughter, grace and forgiveness.

Forgive yourself for your past, for your inadequacies, for resentments, from fear. Face the days ahead with hope. A loving God is already way ahead of you.

*Pastor Ogden*





Backpack  
Giveaway  
2023



# 2022 impact report muskegon county



## growth of mobile pantries

117 → 128  
in 2021 in 2022

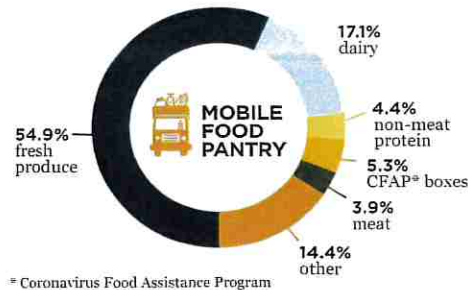
## mobile food pantry cost

\$140,150  
in 2022

## food provided by mobile pantries

870,883 lbs = 725,736  
of food meals

## products distributed by mobile pantries



“ We help people try to get back on their feet. The cost of food is higher and rent has gone up, so people can't afford what they used to. The need in the community has grown. Mobile Pantries help fill that void with food and nutritious things for people to eat.”

-Rob, CEO  
Citi Boi Corp

## top mobile pantry partners

Partner	City	Lbs. Dist.
Muskegon County Cooperating Churches	Muskegon	441,687
Discovering Christ Church	Muskegon	96,730
Transformation Life Church	Muskegon	87,646
Calvin CRC	Muskegon	87,527
Laketon Bethel Reformed	Muskegon	85,430
County Total		870,883

## demographics served by mobile pantries

	Number of Neighbors
Households	16,591
Individuals	40,275
Children	10,689
Seniors	15,333
Veterans	3,089

## top agency partners

Partner	City	Lbs. Dist.
White Lake Area Food Pantry	Whitehall	55,070
Harbor of Grace Lutheran Church	Muskegon	41,563
First Congregational UCC	Muskegon	29,910
Salvation Army	Muskegon	28,227
City Heart Ministries	Muskegon Heights	17,524
County Total		375,665

## agency partners stats

	Number of Partners	Lbs. Dist.
Food Pantries	15	216,466
Mobile Food Pantries	10	870,883
Meal Sites	2	6,631
Youth Sites	9	27,561
Other Sites	6	125,007
County Totals		42 1,246,548





*Cirkevný zbor ECAV na Slovensku Bátovce  
vás srdečne pozýva na služby Božie, na ktorých bude  
slávnostne do úradu zborového farára CZ Bátovce  
inštalovaný*

IVAN KLINKO

*Inštaláciu vykoná Mária Popičová,  
seniorka Dunajsko-nitrianskeho seniorátu*

*Slávnostným kazateľom bude Iveta Vachulová,  
konseniorka Myjavského seniorátu*

NEDEĽA | 27. AUGUSTA 2023

10:00 hod.

Evanjelický kostol  
Bátovce 27

*Veľmi srdečne  
Zám 18.9.24*





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

