

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

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

November 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

All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2023~ Remembering those who have died

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Jon Blyth	8/16/22 - 3/7/23
Jeannette Otto	6/30/43 - 7/16/23
Norma Simon *	8/15/43 - 9/17/23

* denotes non-members

Christ The King, November 26, 2023 ~ Celebrating those baptized

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Finn A. DeMumbrum	10/27/22
Baptized	4/9/23



November 2023
Fund of the Month
Faith Formation



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.





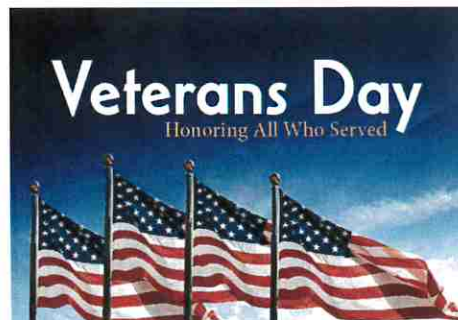
November 5, 2023



The Church Office will be closed on the following dates:

**Thursday, November 23
Friday, November 24**

November 11, 2023





North/West Lower
Michigan Synod

P.O. Box 517
Dewitt, MI 48820

517-321-5066
mittensynod.org

In this Issue:

"See the Whole Board"

You Are Witnesses of These Things

An Opportunity for Self-Examination

Salt, Light, and Leaven

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

"See the Whole Board"

In a certain episode of *The West Wing*, President Bartlett said at different points to Charlie and Sam, "See the whole board." In the first instance, he was talking about a real chessboard. In the second, he was discussing deployment of naval resources around the globe. In both cases, he was admonishing his staff to back up and look at the big picture.

Jesus puts it another way. Jesus says, "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates" (Matthew 24: 29-33).

When I allow myself to step back and perceive all that is happening, I see beyond the things that want to get in my face and command my attention: congregation conflicts, call processes, and closings. I discover ways congregations could work together and remain vital. If only they could give up a certain sense of entitlement. I perceive that we can stop saving for a rainy day because we are in the midst of a torrential downpour. But even more important, I see beyond the survival of the church as it is currently configured.

The war in Ukraine continues. Israel and Gaza are exploding. The images from our southern border are heartbreaking. Despite positive economic news, the need in our congregations' feeding ministries is up. Our government is deadlocked. Our children need support. Gun violence is real. The planet is dying. Cancer is relentless. Forgiveness is hard to find.

And, when I am focused on the things that want to get in my face and demand my attention, Jesus feels far away. But when I step back and see the whole board, when I attend to signs of Jesus's coming, I perceive that Jesus is near, at the very gate. No, things may not turn out the way I or others want or think are best. But one way or another, Jesus will bring life.

I am not saying that congregation conflicts, call processes, and closings are unimportant. I spend most of my days dealing with these three things. However, resolving conflicts, calling pastors, and fighting to keep congregations from closing (or helping congregations to understand the time has come to close) are not important because they allow our church to go on as it always has. These issues are important because people need the gospel and Jesus has work to do in the world.

Seeing the whole board and attending to the signs of Christ coming, we know that Jesus not only has work to do in the world, but that Jesus is doing it. I needed this reminder. Perhaps you do too.

Peace,

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

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
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
Ruth Nurmi, with health concerns
Nancy Peterson, McCauley Place, E. Sherman, Muskegon #407 A
Barb Smith, at Legacy of Caring - Whitehall
Marty Windbacher, at home under Hospice Care

Special Prayer Concerns:

Anita Benes, ("oboe sister" of Michele Wheeler), battling leukemia
Lucas Carlson, (Terry and Mary Beekmans grandson) for new treatment.
Margaret Fountain, (Mary Koenen's sister) diagnosed with multiple myeloma
Elin Frietsch, recently diagnosed with lymphoma
Karl Glass, with health concerns
John Lewallen, (Mary Lewallen's brother-in-law) liver cancer
Mary Lewallen, with home & pet issues
Jill (Chuck Miller's daughter) Knee replacement on 10/11/23
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



Worship Notes

Sunday, November 5 - All Saints Sunday

Color: White

Worship - 10:15am

**Musician:
Monica Ogden**

Readings

**Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12**

**Today we pray for:
Katie & Nick Wallace**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love 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, November 12 - Pentecost 24
Worship - 10:15am**

Color: Green

**Musician:
Monica Ogden**

Readings

**Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13**

**Today we pray for:
Ardy Bulthouse**

Prayer of the Day

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



Sunday, November 19 - Pentecost 25
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Today we pray for:
Tony & Patty DeNicolo

Prayer of the Day

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, November 26 - Christ the King
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: White or Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Today we pray for:
Heather Wiethoff

Prayer of the Day

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



November 2023

11/1 SuLyn Schmuker	11/11 Brian Hosticka
11/3 Marie Hendrixon	11/15 Daniel Holmstrom
11/3 Sage Lynch	11/19 KP Pelleran Mahoney
11/4 Mary Gallihugh	11/21 Jack Parks
11/8 Lisa Holmblade	11/21 Elara DeMumbrum
11/9 Kathy Palmer	11/22 Kara Jaekel
11/10 Julie Holmstrom	11/22 Richard Carlson
11/10 Mike Snell	11/29 Diana Griswold
11/10 Katie Stacy Vandebunte	11/29 Jay Otto, Jr.
11/10 Becky Stacy Chynowyth	
11/10 Charles Peabody	



11/05/15 Jon and Danielle DeMumbrum
11/22/22 Dakota and Ginny King



Baptism Anniversaries



11/1 Brian Jaekel
11/1 Sandra Kolb
11/4 Mardi Otto
11/4 Debbie Svensson
11/8 David Roesler

11/9 Jeffrey Hendrixon
11/11 Katie Thompson
11/15 Cindy Albert
11/20 Andy Hildebrandt
11/20 Emily Snell Glass

11/25 Nate Aardema
11/26 Sarah Stacy Schmalz
11/27 Hannah Bowen

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.
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.

26087 R12-18

November is Long-Term Care Awareness Month

Thrivent introduces CareForward: a long-term care solution with a life insurance benefit

CareForward is a powerful new approach for extended care planning because it can help to safeguard your family's future with a combination of long-term (LTC) insurance and life insurance. CareForward allows you to pay for qualified expenses should you ever need care, while also providing a death benefit if you don't.

CareForward offers these benefits:

- Dual features—Able to receive benefits for long-term care expenses and a death benefit—depending how much care you need.
- Care preference—You decide if you want to receive care at home, in a facility—or both if your situation changes.
- Premium stability—Your premiums are guaranteed to never go up.
- Cash value—CareForward offers guaranteed cash value that will grow—even if interest rates change or markets decline.
- Elimination period—CareForward has a 0-day elimination period for both home care and adult day care and 90 days for residential care facilities.

Having a plan to cope with long-term care needs helps our families face potential hardships as we age. That's why it's so important to start long-term care planning today.

For more information on this exciting product from Thrivent, 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.

A while back I asked some members about what was helpful (and what was not helpful) when they experienced loss, and death. These were people I knew "were acquainted with grief," to borrow a phrase from Isaiah.

One person said cards and letters, even silly ones, that also said "I'm thinking of you"

One person said "Ask what they need." But another said, "Don't ask - just show up with a meal card. They both agreed call to run errands, offer lawn care, leaf raking, snow shoveling. They suggested Book Nook cards, care packages with teas; puzzles, gift certificates.

Another appreciated hugs, small casseroles, walks together especially on the beach, even in winter.

Remembering the birthdays of those who have died, but are still remembered and missed.

Listen on good days and when people are having bad days. In fact, listening on good days means you might be the person they trust on bad days.

Sometimes people want to be left alone - - grief and healing come at their own time.

Sometimes saying I am praying for you is helpful, but sometimes, bringing God into the picture can provoke anger. Being angry at God is an ok part of grief. Expect anger, denial, bargaining, depression before acceptance comes. Sometimes terrible things have been said, like "God must have wanted them in heaven more than we wanted them here" as if it's our fault for not wanting them enough. But reading hymns from the "Lament" section of the hymnal offers hope. Being present with some of these things in mind is helpful.

Lara Plewka MacGregor's book is helpful. We will work through more of her book in Lent.

Trevor Romain's book & DVD "What on Earth Do You Do When Someone Dies?" is available - ask the Pastor.

November is the season to think about death, dying, Living Wills, Durable Power of Attorney, Medical Directives, but also the spiritual resources this list might lead you to be the kind of help your family, friends, and neighbors need in hard times. In November we can work on it together.

Pastor Ogden

**Thank You to Barb Aardema for gathering input from members



St. James Lutheran Church
8945 Stebbins St., Montague – 231-894-8471

HARVEST DINNER

Saturday, November 4th, 2023

Two Seating Times
4:00 pm & 6:30 pm

Bake Sale ~ 4:00-6:30 pm
Silent Quilt Auction ~ 4:00-6:30 pm

Tickets: \$15.00 (Adults), \$6.00 (6-12),
5 and under are free

*The Menu: Roasted Pork Loin, Oven Fried Chicken, German Style
Sauerkraut, Real Mashed Potatoes, Pork Gravy, Stuffing, Squash,
Green Beans, Rolls, Pies, and Beverages*

Take Outs are available!

All Dinner Proceeds will go to: 50% to Local Food Pantries,
25% Youth House, 25% to Good Shepherd Preschool
All Bake Sale Proceeds will go to St. James Quilter's needs

Only 325 tickets will be sold ~ Reservations are recommended!!

*To reserve tickets call 894-2290 or the
church office at 894-8471*

(This is a Thrivent Financial Sponsored Event)



Time to start thinking about
your Annual Reports!

Reports **MUST BE** typed,
emailed to the church office
by December 14 at noon.



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*)

