

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

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

October 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 : #lclsignsofgrace

It's been a good summer, bringing back in new form many of our summer ministries that make summer feel like a Lebanon summer. Ministry is what turns the summer into Pentecost, the long green liturgical season that encourages us to celebrate growth, changes, a spirit of outdoor togetherness, community.

New forms are hard to get used to. The Living Lutheran periodical will change form in January 2024. I've so enjoyed discussing it together in the adult forum, and together we will figure out how to continue it for our congregation. Our annual budget has included a generous amount so we can send it to everybody, even while some congregations have written it out. It helps with Pentecost growth.

Smorgasbord in October? Yes! It's a great tradition that has changed multiple times since the days when it was the community dinner for the White Lake Swedish Festival. Our goal is to keep it a relaxed, fun community event that happens when we are ready for it, not when the calendar says we have to. Please commend Flo for making it happen as a model of Pentecost hospitality.

How great to have a Slovak Seminarian again! First one since 2018. Lea brought joy into the season and into our homes. Thank you to the Parks, Beekmans, and host families for the Pentecost spirit of international welcome. I hope it gives everyone a greater sense that we are a part of a wide world of good people. Lea has returned safely to her home and to classes.

We continue using Ukrainian music in worship to remember refugees, displaced persons, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Ukraine has its problems, but the Russian invasion has been declared as immoral and unjust by the Lutheran World Federation meeting last month in Krakow, Poland. We continue to give thanks for baptism in each worship; the water we use makes its way to the weeping cherry we planted in May in memory of Pastor Foster. We continue to burn an orange candle in worship to remind ourselves that the leading cause of death among young people today is gun violence. We continue to support our public schools in Montague and Whitehall; and teachers, who emphasize helping students solve their social and emotional problems in healthy, non-confrontational ways. SEL, the call it — social and emotional learning. The November 7 election is a good day to show our support..

Continued on Page 3



October 2023
Fund of the Month
Samaritas



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.



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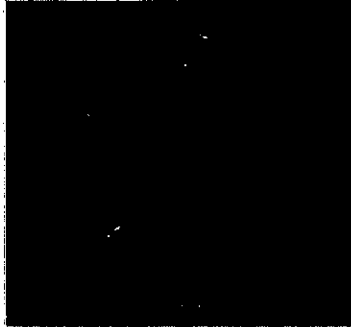
We will end October with a Reformation Sunday hayride at Scholl Farm in Montague on Sunday, October 29 from 4:30 until dark. Potluck (Mike Schmalz is making the barbecued pork again!) and bonfire. The biblical symbols of Pentecost are flame, meal, water, community, a multitude of languages, and new trees that provide healing; and this summer we have done them all and more. We have transformed summer into Pentecost.

Salvation unto us has come by God's free grace and favor
Faith alone can justify, works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymn #590*)

Pastor Ogden

The AA group has disbanded and no longer will meet at Lebanon on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

A Yoga class will begin on October 6, 2023 from 5:45 to 7:15pm and will meet in the upper hall.



**North/West Lower
Michigan Synod**

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

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

In this Issue:

Future Church

"God's work. Our hands."
Sunday

Adult Theological Education

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

Future Church

At our recent meeting, the Conference of Bishops reviewed the ELCA's Future Church initiative, including the survey available to all members of the ELCA and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's video. Both are available on the ELCA website and I encourage you to watch the video and complete the survey: <https://lovemaderead.elca.org>.

In her video, Bishop Eaton provides a vision for our church that I find as memorable as the four "We Are Church" statements she gave us in 2013: "The vision for the future of our church is a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation." In discussing Future Church with the bishops, Bishop Eaton explained that our church buildings and communities are part of that world, but they are outposts, places to gather and be sent into the world to tell the story of God's love in word and deed. She also stated that Future Church is not about institutional survival, or the survival of the ELCA, but giving the gospel free reign in the world.

I wonder how passionately we all agree with this. I spend more time talking to people about the survival of their church building and community than I do about being sent into the world to share the story of God's love in Jesus Christ. I find myself returning to Jesus's words, "For whoever would save their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25). In Luke, Jesus tells parables about counting the cost (Luke 14:28-34). There are costs to be counted regardless of whether we choose to pursue congregational/institutional survival, share the story of Jesus with the world, or attempt to thread the needle and do a bit of both.

I am regularly asked how to make this conversation concrete rather than abstract. So let's consider a case study: online or live-stream worship. Some consider online worship the best way to share the story of God's love in Christ with the world: televangelists have told us this for decades. Others find the time and energy necessary to produce online worship could be better spent engaging people in the neighborhood. I regularly hear from congregational leaders who feel that online worship primarily enables people to stay home from church and that it's time to come back. Yet, they hesitate to pull the plug unless everyone else does, out of fear that those same people will simply find another online church. Someone recently mused that a single studio capable of green screening 100 worship spaces is much easier to maintain than 100 church buildings, and is also more economical and better for the environment.

As we consider Future Church and visions we have for the future of our church and congregations, we need to consider our priorities. If we want our church buildings and communities to survive, and we are staying away, then it's time to return to them. It might even be time to turn off the camera. If we want to have more energy and resources to share the story of Jesus with the world, then maybe it is time to let go of our buildings and expand our definition of church community. All I know is, rather than survival, it's long past time to make sharing the story of God's love in Christ for all people and creation our vision and purpose. Thank you, Bishop Eaton!

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

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
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
Marty Windbacher, at home under Hospice Care.





Worship Notes

Sunday, October 1 - Pentecost 18

Color: Green

Worship - 10:15am

**Musician:
Monica Ogden**

Readings

Today we pray for:

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32**

Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, October 8 - Pentecost 19

Color: Green

Worship - 10:15am

**Musician:
Monica Ogden**

Readings

Today we pray for:

**Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b - 14
Matthew 21:33-46**

Prayer of the Day

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, October 15 - Pentecost 20
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Today we pray for:

Prayer of the Day

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, October 22 - Pentecost 21
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Green

Today we pray for:

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, October 29 - Reformation Sunday
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Red

Today we pray for:

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in our word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

October 2023

10/3 August Frietsch	10/19 Rob Montgomery
10/3 Kristine Jordahl	10/20 Becky Wahr
10/5 Milan Jurik	10/21 Daniel Civis
10/5 Sue Otterman	10/22 Oliver Wyatt
10/6 Eric Rop	10/23 Tom Fretty
10/6 Linda Schenten	10/25 Meg Eaton
10/10 Curt Crouch	10/25 Karen Hosticka
10/12 Brian Holmblade	10/25 Debbie Svensson
10/12 Bruce Holmblade	10/27 Finn DeMumbrum
10/12 Andreas Holmblade	10/27 Verne Sutherland
10/12 Holly Moog	10/27 Donald Carrier
10/12 Marlene Windbacher	10/29 Stefanie Honoré
10/17 Shirley Glass	10/30 Anna Otterman
10/19 Carol Deneke	10/31 Jonathon Bartlett



10/5/13	Mallory & Keith Lothschutz
10/5/19	Don and Danielle Jacobs
10/6/12	Corey and Rachael (Wahr) Bartlett
10/7/95	Rocky & Linda Decker
10/8/88	Lee & Debbie Swenson
10/13/84	Don & Kim Nelson
10/26/63	Bob & Sharon Ackerman

Baptism Anniversaries



10/3 Kristine Jordahl	10/10 Townes Ernest VandeBunte	10/20 Rachel Wahr Bartlett
10/4 Minnie Estlund	10/10 Violet Mae Stacy Chynoweth	10/23 Lauralee Kesteloot
10/10 Charles Xavier Schmalz	10/20 Frank Lundell	10/29 Pete Fretty

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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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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 - 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.

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26087 R12-18



Color Tour Luncheon

October 6, 2023

12 noon @ Lebanon



Please join us !


If you are planning on attending, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board outside the kitchen or let the church office know!

 Swedish 
Smörgåsbord



Lebanon Lutheran Church
1101 S. Mears Avenue
Whitehall

Thursday, October 12, 2023
5:30 pm

 Tickets 
Adults \$15.00
Children 5-10 \$10.00
Under 5 - Free



Hayride & Potluck
October 29, 2023
Scholl Farms
5955 Eilers Road
Montague 49437

Join us for a Hayride
& Potluck Dinner.
Pulled Pork provided, please
bring a dish to pass. Table
settings will be provided!





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)



Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 South Mears Avenue
Whitehall, MI 49461

Living in God's Amazing Grace

October 2023

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*)

