

**December 17, 2023  
Advent 3**

**Welcome to long-time Lutherans, to Christians from every tradition, and to people new to the faith.**

**Welcome to you who have no church home, or who want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not know for sure what you believe.**

**Welcome to new visitors and old friends**

**Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status, marital status, ability and challenge.**

**We welcome your questions and your beliefs**

**Welcome to Lebanon  
All are welcome in this place**

Readings for today: **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.** *Readings for next week: Christmas Eve - Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]. Try reading these ahead at home and see if you can find what holds them together. We need a volunteer reader for Sundays.*

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*Did you know .....*

*.....that you can always watch recent worship services on our website, and find the Yellow Pages for each week there too?  
[www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com](http://www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com)*

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**Worship on the Web & in person - Sundays at 10:15am**

**Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more updates when then occur.**

**While we appreciate whomever has been retrieving the mail from the box outside, please leave the mail for Margaret to pick up as it needs to be cataloged . Thank you**

**Thank you to Monica Ogden for purchasing new orange candles for our sanctuary.**

**Bible Study via Zoom on Thursday evenings at 7pm.** Please email Pastor Ogden or Kathy Keller ( [Kellerk2@msu.edu](mailto:Kellerk2@msu.edu)) for the link

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### **Prayer Concerns and Announcements**

**It is an important part of our ministry** to be constantly praying for one another. *We add names to the prayer list with consent in order to maintain privacy and confidentiality.*

*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  
**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:*

**Cindy Albert**, recuperating from recent gallbladder surgery  
**Brianne Beekman**, (Terry & Mary Beekman's granddaughter) diagnosed with multiple brain tumors.  
**Anita Benes**, ("oboe sister" of Michele Wheeler), battling leukemia  
**Lucas Carlson**, (Terry and Mary Beekmans grandson) for new treatment.  
**Sheila Fretty**, re-occurring cancer.  
**Elin Frietsch**, diagnosed with Lymphoma  
**Margaret Fountain**, (Mary Koenen's sister) diagnosed with multiple myeloma  
**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  
**Donna Stacy**, undergoing knee replacement surgery 12/4  
**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 : Adrienne Mackowiak (Clahassey)**

*Congregation Prayers for December 2023: Darlene Willbrandt, Yolanta & Harry Swiatek*



**Praying for Elizabeth Eaton**, Presiding Bishop, ELCA and **Craig Satterlee**, Bishop of the Northwest Lower Michigan Synod. **Salem Lutheran, Flint and Pastor Monica Villareal.**

**As Jesus calls us to be one** even as he and the Father are one, please remember these leaders, and judicatories in prayer on Sunday mornings.– Today we pray for: Bethany Lutheran Church/Kaleva; Rev. Zachary Nelson. Next week we pray for: Mamrelund Lutheran Church / Kent City; Rev. Michael Conklin.

**Hand sanitizer is located at several stations as well as masks**

**Masks in the church building are optional**

**Adult Forum at 9:00 am. Coffee will be on!  
Please join us each Sunday!**

**Last Week at Lebanon**

Budget.....	11,028.00
Non-Budget.....	945.00
In & Outs.....	0.00
Total Deposit.....	11,973.00
Fund of the Month - Dec: Worship & Music	55.00

2023 Budget	208,731.00
Budgeted giving through 12/10/23	178,508.40
Shortfall	30,222.60

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**Food Pantry Numbers for December 13: 80 families & 160 individuals**

**NOTE: NEW PANTRY HOURS ARE 9:30 AM TO 10:30 AM  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

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**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!*

## **Take home - Prayer Ventures December 2023**

*These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.*

**17** Pray that we will have the humility, honesty and boldness of John the Baptist, who did not shy away from expressing his faith in Jesus Christ even when challenged and threatened.

**18** *International Migrants Day* Pray for those who, with great risk and uncertainty, have left their home countries and familiar surroundings to seek welcoming communities where they feel safe, respected and free to reestablish their lives and raise their families.

**19** Give thanks to God for the assurance of life eternal in the kingdom of heaven and for the Spirit equipping us to embody God's compassion in the world while we await the return of Christ.

**20** What stirs joy in you today? Give thanks for the people and experiences that bring joy into your life, even if only briefly. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

**21** *Winter solstice* As the days of the Northern Hemisphere grow shorter, pray that we will be guided and reassured by the light of Christ, which illuminates God's love, mercy and truth in our lives and in every corner of the world.

**22** Praise God for this time of remembrance, anticipation and celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, a birth that changed the world and our lives in ways that exceed our imagination and comprehension.

**23** Give thanks for those who serve our communities during Christmas, including people in health care, elder care, law enforcement, the hospitality industry, emergency services and the military.



Thank you to all who helped with the Christmas baskets: **John and Irene Parks, Mary and Terry Beekman, Deb Peabody, Barb Aardema, Mary Koenen, Carol Norwick, and Wayne Roesler** and every one who donated items for the baskets.

We packed 23 baskets. Thank You!

*Sue Roesler*

Thanks to our Lebanon family for a delicious, colorful basket filled with fruit, jelly, and baked delights. Alice and I will enjoy several days of treats. I miss seeing everyone, but must give my wound the months it needs to heal, so I mostly avoid using my wheelchair. I do see some of you via YouTube on Sunday mornings. Thaks for prayers, cards, and some visits, including Pastor Ogden.

*Frank Hollister*

**This Week's Calendar**

<b>12/17 SUN</b>	9am 10:15am	Adult Forum Communion
<b>12/18 MON</b>	9am-1pm	Office Hours
<b>12/19 TUES</b>	9am-1pm	Office Hours
<b>12/20 WED</b>	9am—1pm 9:30am-10:30 am 12:30-3:30pm	Office Hours Poinsettia order arrives Food Pantry ( Drive-Thru) Homeschool Group (Upper Hall) Decorate the Sanctuary Christmas Tree
<b>12/21 THURS</b>	9am-1pm	Office Hours
<b>12/22 FRI</b>	9am-1pm	Office Hours
<b>12/23 SAT</b>		Scouts / Kitchen use

**Next Sunday December 24**

9am	Adult Forum
10:15am	Communion
6:30pm	Candles and Carols

**Merry Christmas!**



*Lebanon Lutheran Church*

1101 S. Mears Avenue  
Whitehall, MI 49461  
(231) 893-5745  
Rev. Douglas M. Ogden

[www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com](http://www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com)  
#llcsignsofgrace

**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  
[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.