

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

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

February 2024

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 : #llesignsofgrace

On Sunday morning February 11, it will be two days shy of one year since the horrifying shooting at Michigan State University.

It would be a second tragedy if we as a nation did not continue efforts to reduce gun violence in the US, now. The leading cause of death for young people in America. And to reduce our reliance on guns to solve our problems. It is nation-wide, urban and rural and small town, rich neighborhood and poor, affecting young and old alike with trauma that lasts. To add to the urgency, the trial over the Oxford school shooting is happening right now.

To bring the lament and the hope into our worship we have had an orange candle by the place where we read the Word of God, and we will remember the events and the people in our worship on Sunday February 11 at 10:15 am. You will be welcome to share your stories, your remembrances, your prayers on that day.

The Epiphany season comes to an end that Sunday. Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are both February 14. We will start Wednesday potlucks and Evening prayer that night. I can see us commemorating both by reading First Corinthians 13 – "If I speak in the tongues of angels but have not love . . . I gain nothing." Legends about St Valentine abounded in the Middle Ages, especially stories of restoring sight to a young girl named Julia, to whom he wrote a letter she was now able to read; he signed it "Your Valentine." And so we have been collecting eyeglasses which we will deliver to the lions Club through one of our area eye doctors who collect them for the club. Epiphany season is a time for sight, insight, and new directions, as the Magi experienced when they encountered Jesus Christ and also uncovered Herod's true character, and went back to their own country, differently, following a different path.

And finally we will keep Lent with Wednesday potlucks and evening prayer, Lenten noontime lunches at area churches, collect personal care items for refugees and foster care children, kits we will assemble the Sunday after Easter, April 7. The schedule for all of these things is in this newsletter, is in the Friday emails, in the bulletin insert yellow pages, and on the announcement slides at worship.

This is what we do – welcome to Lebanon.

Pastor Ogden



♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥

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

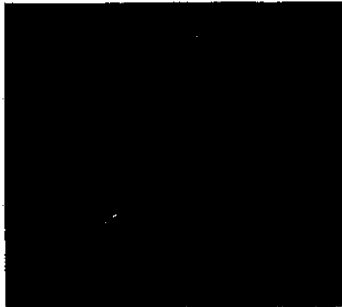
Suicide Hotline 1-800-273TALK.org
www.co.muskegon.mi.us/cmh_suicide_prevention

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.





North/West Lower
Michigan Synod

P.O. Box 517
Dewitt, MI 48820

517-321-5066
mittensynod.org

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Sab·bat·i·cal: A Rest or Break from Work

"Moreover I gave them my Sabbaths, as a sign between me and them, so that they might know that I the Lord sanctify them" (Ezekiel 20:12)

This message comes to you as Bishop Satterlee is enjoying the first month of a well-deserved 3-month sabbatical planned with the full encouragement and support of Synod Council in accordance with the *synod's sabbatical guidelines* for all rostered ministers. A link to the [2024 Compensation Guidelines](#) is provided on the synod website for reference (see Appendix C for the sabbatical guidelines).

What is a sabbatical? A sabbatical (from the Hebrew *šabat* or *sabbath*; Latin *sabbaticus*; and Greek *sabbatikos*) is an extended period of time intentionally spent on things like study, travel, rest, renewal, personal development, reinforcement and rejuvenation of relationships with God and others – activities outside of the routine job that take place without the demands and stress of daily responsibilities.

Why are sabbaticals a blessing for our rostered ministers? Many parishioners believe the call of a rostered minister is relatively stress-free, with the primary focus centered on weekend worship and related activities. In reality, pastors and deacons across our synod work tirelessly throughout each week to meet the strategic needs of their congregation(s) – including worship leadership, education and Bible studies, service projects, community support and the like. In addition, we rely on our pastors to serve as our "shepherds" during congregational conflict, during our more personal events such as baptisms, weddings, funerals, and as they provide 24/7 pastoral care and counseling in times of need. At the synod level, the bishop also serves as "shepherd" to rostered ministers (pastors and deacons) across the synod. Since the pandemic, there has been an enhanced need to help these leaders manage conflict within their congregations along with the feelings of sadness, hurt, anger and frustration that have resulted within their ministries. Our rostered ministers are honored to serve in their calls and they are committed to the important work they lead. Each do their best to manage the inherent stress that builds up as they deal with the mentally challenging and emotionally exhausting deep, "inner soul" issues we put before them week after week, month after month, and year after year. A periodic sabbatical provides a blessed opportunity for our rostered ministers to step away and renew, refresh and recharge for the work to come.

How frequently are sabbaticals recommended? It is up to the Congregation Council (or equivalent leadership body) to set the schedule for sabbatical leaves for their rostered ministers to meet the needs of the organization. According to our synod's Compensation Guidelines, a sabbatical of up to three months in duration is encouraged for full-time rostered ministers who have been in their present call five years or more, with continued eligibility for additional sabbaticals within the same call every five years after that. From a financial standpoint, salary, housing and other benefits are expected to continue throughout the sabbatical period with the congregation taking full responsibility for alternative staffing to cover needs during the absence.

With all of this in mind, I encourage you to think about the stressors being managed, both outwardly and inwardly, by your pastor(s) and/or deacon(s). Are there ways you can provide additional support within their on-going ministry to help alleviate known stressors? Is your congregation supportive of sabbaticals for rostered ministers and is a schedule in place for long-range planning? Your encouragement and support of and advocacy for this meaningful break from ministry will mean the world to your rostered minister and to your congregation in the long run!

Sandy Schlesinger, Synod Vice President

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:



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.

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
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
Dave Gross, (Kathy Keller's brother) hospitalized in Canada
Frank Hollister, 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).
Deb Peabody (Statz), knee replacement January 18
Pastor Sarah Samuelson, recently diagnosed with colorectal cancer
Wendy Shalifoe, undergoing chemo treatment
Donna Stacy, recuperating from knee surgery.
Verne "Barney" Sutherland, with serious heart issues
Our hearts grieve with the family and friends of Nancy Peterson, who passed away 1/28/24.
Cynthia Lombard, Melissa Peterson and Tom Peterson; her children



Worship Notes

Sunday, February 4 - Epiphany 5
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Today we pray for:
Brad Carlson

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, February 11 - Transfiguration of Our Lord
Worship - 10:15am

Color: White

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Today we pray for:
Greg & Robin Cavis

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, February 18 - Lent 1
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Purple

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Today we pray for:
Chris Claus

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, February 25 - Lent 2
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Purple

Readings

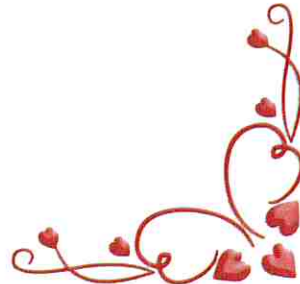
Musician:
Monica Ogden

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Today we pray for:
Kathy Wiethoff

Prayer of the Day

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you make an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



February 2024



2/1 Francis Litchfield	2/17 Lori Skinner
2/2 Sharon Ackerman	2/17 Ethen Wendell
2/2 Karl Holmstrom	2/19 Gregory Civis
2/2 Isaac Otterman	2/19 Dustin King
2/7 Wendy Shalifoe	2/19 Nancy Peterson
2/10 Holly Davis	2/22 Jeanne Berry
2/10 Amy Swope	2/22 John Wahr
2/11 Thea Lothschutz	2/23 Donna Will
2/12 Ray Veeder	2/24 Krysten Hosticka
2/13 Tiffany Barnes	2/24 Delia VandeBunte
2/13 Marilyn Schmuker	2/26 Frank Hollister
2/14 Beverly Statz	2/26 Allie Ogden
2/15 Trevin Bernhardt	2/27 Dean Hewitt
2/16 Emma Greenwood	2/28 Jenna Brown



2/22/2020	Cory & Erica Wyatt
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Baptism Anniversaries



2/1 Barb Brooks	2/21 Brenton Will
2/8 Elly Hendrixon	2/24 Steve Albert
2/10 Larry Holmstrom	2/26 Barb Aardema
2/11 Julie Holmstrom	2/26 Lonna Anguilm
2/14 Franci Chamberlain	2/26 Brian Holmblade
2/16 Joni Will	2/26 Bruce Holmblade
2/19 Nichole Page Farrar	2/27 Stephanie Honoré

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.

Hello! Updates from the **Whitehall Thrivent Office**. We want to wish Tony De Nicolo well as he retired Jan 5th, 2024! Enjoy the next chapter of life, especially with his new grandchildren!

Marci Bentz, your Financial Advisor remains at the Whitehall Office and will continue to provide you with the same service as the past 16 years.

Marci has joined Generational Wealth Advisors, a dynamic Thrivent team full of experienced Advisors and support staff with a mission to help families live and leave a legacy in their faith, family, and finances. One of the many benefits of joining this Thrivent team is the access to resources and expertise that will provide you with best-in-class customer service. From in-depth wealth transfer and legacy planning conversations, to simple money movement or account questions, Marci's team has you covered.

For any financial questions, needs or concerns, please call Marci Bentz at the Whitehall Office at 231-894-8886, text 231-760-8246, or email whitehalloffice@thrivent.com. Wishing you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

If you or someone you care for needs help due to aging, disability or a medical condition, we can help.

As a Thrivent client with membership, you have complimentary access to Homethrive—a comprehensive resource to guide you through the caregiving journey. Get the answers and support you need, including:



24/7 access to a library of caregiving resources—articles, podcasts and videos.



The ability to chat live with caregiving, aging and disability experts.



Personalized product and locally relevant service recommendations.

Want to learn more?

Visit thrivent.com/caregiving or scan the QR code to learn more about our caregiving resources and other benefits of Thrivent membership.



Samaritas Health Kit Schedule:

February 7	set up tables & back stock items
Week of February 14	Towels & wash cloths
Week of February 21	combs
Week of February 28	nail clippers
Week of March 6	toothpaste
Week of March 13	tooth brushes
Week of March 20	bar soap
Week of March 27	bags arrive – shop
Week of April 7	Palm Sunday – Assemble kits

Any cash donations we receive will be used to purchase whatever items are needed to make the kits come out even. We will assemble them beginning Sunday, April 7– Palm Sunday @ 9:00am .



Lenten Conversations 2024

Wednesdays from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

*This interdenominational observance of Lent is open to all.
Come and share a light meal and a brief message
at different host churches each week of Lent.*

Wednesday, February 21

St. Peters by the Lake, 8451 N. Old Channel Trail, Montague
Pastor Donna Morton of White Lake Congregational, speaker

Wednesday, February 28

Ferry Memorial Church, 4687 Church St, Montague
Pastor Leighton Seys of Ferry Memorial Church, speaker

Wednesday, March 6

White Lake Congregational Church, 1809 S. Mears, Whitehall
Pastor Tim Dibble of WL United Methodist Church, speaker

Wednesday, March 13

White Lake Methodist Church – Whitehall Campus
117 S. Division Street
Pastor Beth Wohlford of Ferry Memorial Church, speaker

Wednesday, March 20

St. James Catholic Church – 5149 Dowling St, Montague
Pastor David Meyer of St. Peter's By-the-Lake, speaker

A free will offering will be taken at each luncheon and donated to the White Lake Area Food Pantry located at the Lebanon Lutheran Church in Whitehall and the United Methodist Free Store of Whitehall.

Easter Flower Order Form 2024

****Orders are due by February 20, 2024** (please note, color of plants may be subject to substitution.)

6" Easter Lilies	\$15 ____	6" Tulips	\$12
6" Mums	\$15 ____	Red	____
White	____	Pink	____
Yellow	____	Yellow	____
Lavender	____		
		6" Azaleas	\$25
6" Mini Daffodil	\$12 ____	White	____
		Pink (pale pink)	____
10" Triple Easter Lilies	\$40 ____	Red (dark pink)	____

Please specify name you wish to appear on insert

In Memory of:

In Honor of: _____

Please make checks payable to Lebanon Lutheran Church. Thank You



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*)



February 2024