

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

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

April 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 : #llcsignsofgrace

Easter is certainly a good time to acknowledge, thank and congratulate the volunteers who make ministry happen at Lebanon, or should I say through Lebanon. One of our organizational goals is to involve the community in the things that we care about. And so we have. Let me begin with the White Lake Food Pantry at Lebanon.

Director Sandy Robbins has been looking for an opportunity to turn the leadership over to someone else so that she could just do the "worker-bee" jobs she enjoys. We are happy to welcome Paul Collins to that role. Thank You Sandy for many years of inventorying, ordering, organizing volunteers, etc. You are deeply appreciated.

"Packing people" meet on Tuesdays: Kathy Walsh, Cindy Lipka, Sue Sikkenga, Holly VanderPlaats, Tom Pawlowski, Mitch Coleman, and Diana Delgado along with the "milk-run people": Al and Michele Wheeler, Mary Koenen, Wietse Schaafsma, Larry VanderPlaats.

Wednesday distribution people include Jenna Brown, Jan Klco, Sue Sikkenga, Susan Newhof, Bill DeMumbrum, Diana Delgado.

Truck drivers are Rob Montgomery and Larry Vanderplaats; Tony DeNicolo handles the recycling, and the guys come to unload the truck whenever we need them: Tom Pawlowski, Rich Carlson, Mitch Coleman and a host of others we can call on.

Margaret Everling continues to collect the information car-by-car, and keeps the records we are required to have, and generally oversees how we are doing.

Of course, you know when naming names I will forget somebody important and for that I apologize.

Thanks to our Church Council and newly elected officers for 2024: Wietse Schaafsma (President); Sarah Schmalz (VP); Al Wheeler (recorder); Terry Beekman (treasurer); Curt Crouch (financial sec'y); Meg Eaton (Friday emails); Laura Hollister, Brian Jaekel, and Cheri Crouch, our (out-going president).

(Continued on Page 13)



**April 2024
Fund of the Month
Good Gifts**

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](http://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.

Good Gifts - Fund of the Month

From the comfort of our homes we see myriad examples of people around the world who are in dire need of even the most basic necessities. The needs are so great that they seem to be insurmountable!

The awareness of these situations raises in most of us a desire to help, but also questions: What to do? What can I do? What can we do? To help answer these questions, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) provides us with answers in the form of the print and online ELCA Good Gifts Catalog.

This welcome resource lists a wide array of gift choices designed to help fill local needs. The many empowering gifts fall into the categories of livestock, safe water, women and children, school supplies, agriculture, and healthcare. Prices range from \$10 for a chick or fruit tree seedling or backpack with food, to larger amounts for a family farm, or one year's nutrition for a child, or school supplies for a classroom.

The online catalog can be accessed at: ELCA.org/goodgifts. As a parting thought, consider buying a gift in honor of someone's birthday or other special day or for Christmas in lieu of more stuff.



**North/West Lower
Michigan Synod**

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

**517-321-5066
miftensynod.org**

In this Issue:

Women's History Month

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2024 Synod Assembly

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

Women's History Month

Along with St. Patrick's Day, and the technical start of spring, March also brings us Women's History Month. I was lucky to have a very strong role model in my mother growing up. There was never a question that I could do whatever I wanted for a career; however, at least when I was younger, I don't think anyone would have guessed being a pastor was my vocational path. As luck would have it, Pastor Rich knew I had a call to ministry long before I did, and his response to my wondering out loud about ministry was a smile and a "It's about time you figured that out."

As I look back, it's funny that while I never had any female pastor role models, I never even considered that there were faith traditions where that was not allowed. These days, I find it a bit shocking that even though women were the ones who first experienced the resurrection and were the first to preach the good news that Jesus is Risen, there are still so many faith traditions who seek to silence women in the church and various other parts of society.

Of course as I grew older I became more aware of the struggle of women in various vocations and how many of us still do not earn the same income as our male counterparts, not to mention the differing societal expectations and sometimes outright harassment that women face in their vocations (even and sometimes especially in the church). We've come a long way but we still have a very long way to go!

As we celebrate Women's History Month, we look back at some pivotal moments both in our county and our church:

- Women were given the right to vote in a constitutional amendment passed by congress on June 4, 1919. This amendment was ratified by 36 states on August 18, 1920 and certified August 26, 1920.
- Part of the Lutheran Church in America (a predecessor church of the ELCA), Elizabeth Platz was the first ordained Lutheran woman in America. After graduating from Gettysburg Seminary, she worked as a lay minister at the University of Maryland-College Park for the five years prior to her ordination on November 22, 1970.
- Part of the American Lutheran Church (another predecessor church of the ELCA) Barbara L. Andrews was ordained on December 22, 1970.
- In our synod, I celebrate that we are getting closer to a 50-50 split in the number of active pastors and deacons. Of our pastors within the first three years of their first call, it's an even split.

More information about the history of women in the ELCA can be found on the ELCA's website: <https://www.elca.org/50yearsofordainedwomen>. Another great resource is *Voices Long Silenced: Women Biblical Interpreters Throughout the Centuries* by Dr. Joy Schroeder and Marion Ann Taylor (<https://bit.ly/3T4AATx>). Dr. Schroeder led this semester's Adult Theological Education Course, which was a wonderful and deeply insightful learning experience. I personally learned a lot of new things about often overlooked theological women and highly recommend her book, on which the course was based, to everyone.

Throughout the year, but especially this month, I encourage you to reflect on the ways you can support the women in your life. If you happen to know a woman in ministry, please let them know you appreciate them. Pray for them and their ministry. Support their ideas, seek their input, and echo what they say by name: "as Pastor/Deacon Jane Doe said..." As women in our world continue to fight for justice, equity, and inclusion, we give thanks for the women who have gone before us and pray for continued growth in our world. Happy Women's History Month!

The Rev. Chrisy Bright
Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Candidacy

Muskegon County Cooperating Churches News

Meet the “Humans of Muskegon” April 3, 2024

The “Humans of Muskegon” presentation will take place Wednesday, April 3, 2024 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Muskegon Community College, 221 Quarterline in the Gerber Lounge. Come hear from our “Living Books” - 15 different folks from our community who share their very special stories of living “differently” here in Muskegon County. Susan Harrison is the wonderful interviewer who helped these people tell of their experiences. For more information, please visit MADL.org/Humans.

Save the Date!

A Prayer Walk Against Violence August 25, 2024

The Peace and Justice Committee of Muskegon County Cooperating Churches is pleased to announce another Prayer Walk Against Violence, currently planned for August 25, 2024. Last year the walk was specifically against gun violence. This year we are planning to make it against violence in general. In addition, to encourage more peaceful interactions in our community, at a different time, we will be offering training on violence de-escalation and bystander intervention.

Thank you to all who participated in our Walk on August 27, 2023. We look forward to your continued participation as we look forward to, and plan, our 2nd annual Prayer Walk Against Violence.

We are also looking for someone who would be interested in volunteering to do publicity for these events. If you are interested, please contact us at 231-727-6000. Please leave a message and someone will return your call.

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
Ruth Nurmi, with health concerns
Barb Smith, at Legacy of Caring - Whitehall
Marty Windbacher, At Poppin House

Special Prayer Concerns:

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
Dan Hendrick, (Curt Crouch's brother) battling cancer
John Lewallen, (Mary Lewallen's brother-in-law) liver cancer
Mary Lewallen, with home & pet issues
Dwight Mead (Paula Moreau's brother-in-law), non-hodgkin lymphoma mantel type (stage four).
Tom Munn, (Frank Hollister's friend), at SKLD-Whitehall, recuperating from multiple strokes and health issues.
Lois Szczerbinski, with health issues
Deb Peabody (Statz), knee replacement January 18
Pastor Sarah Samuelson, recently diagnosed with colorectal cancer
Wendy Shalifoe, Surgery in December, now cancer free

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



Worship Notes

Sunday, April 7 - Easter 2
Worship - 10:15am

Color: White

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Today we pray for:

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, April 14 - Easter 3
Worship - 10:15am

Color: White

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Today we pray for:

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection 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.**

Sunday, April 21 - Easter 4
Worship - 10:15am

Color: White

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Today we pray for:

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, April 28 - Easter 5
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: White

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Today we pray for:

Prayer of the Day

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



April 2024



| | | | |
|------|----------------|------|---------------------|
| 4/4 | Brenda Koster | 4/17 | Carla Nessa |
| 4/5 | Doug Aardema | 4/19 | Tony DeNicolo |
| 4/5 | Hannah Bowen | 4/19 | Jon Honoré |
| 4/5 | Ted Gribas | 4/21 | Flo King |
| 4/7 | Colby Eklund | 4/23 | Blake Brackmann |
| 4/12 | Jeff Otterman | 4/24 | Terry Kesteloot |
| 4/13 | Kelly Shalifoe | 4/24 | Scott Lamiman |
| 4/13 | Irene Parks | 4/26 | Nova Woodring |
| 4/14 | Erica Wyatt | 4/27 | Sarah Stacy Schmalz |
| 4/15 | Rob Wahr | 4/27 | Tobias Lothschutz |
| 4/16 | Jay Otto | | |



| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| 4/4/87 | Mike & Lisa Clark |
| 4/30/77 | Curt & Cheri Crouch |

Baptism Anniversaries



| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 4/1 Marty DeNicolo | 4/7 Sheila Fretty | 4/23 Terry Beekman |
| 4/1 Holly Hughes | 4/12 Karl Holmstrom | 4/24 Sandy Robbins |
| 4/2 Richard Carlson | 4/15 Louis Hosticka | 4/25 Helen Allshouse |
| 4/3 John Parks | 4/16 Linda Decker | 4/27 Holly Moog |
| 4/4 Richard Bernhardt | 4/17 Melissa Herring | |
| 4/5 Darrel Otto | 4/18 Mary Carlson | |
| 4/6 Helen Bartlett | 4/21 Holly Tenbrink Davis | |

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.

SPRING GREETINGS FROM YOUR THRIVENT WHITEHALL OFFICE

How to Protect Yourself Against Identity Theft

Massive computer hacks and data breaches are now common occurrences — an unfortunate consequence of living in a digital world. Now more than ever, it's important to safeguard yourself against identity theft. Here are some steps you can take to protect your personal and financial information.

- Review your credit report at least once a year to be sure it's correct.
- Keep an eye out for possible signs of identity theft such as incorrect personal and account information on your credit report, including suspicious credit inquiries or missing bills and other mail from financial institutions and credit-card companies. If you discover that your personal and/or financial information has been exposed to identity theft, you should consider placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on your credit report.
- Maintain strong passwords. A strong password should be at least eight characters long, using a combination of lower-case letters, upper-case letters, numbers, and symbols or a random phrase.
- Consider using two-step authentication, which involves using a text or email code along with your password.
- Think twice before clicking. Beware of emails containing links or asking for personal information. Know your sender.
- Search with purpose. Typing one word into a search engine to reach a particular website is easy, but it sometimes isn't enough to reach the site you are looking for. Scam websites may look nearly identical to the one you are searching for.
- Be careful when you shop online. Look for the secure lock symbol in the address bar and the letters https: (as opposed to http:) in the URL. Avoid using public Wi-Fi for shopping.
- Be on the lookout for tax-related identity theft. This occurs when someone uses your Social Security number to claim a fraudulent tax refund. Remember that the IRS will never contact you by email to request personal/financial information.

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.



Sunday, April 21

1:00-4:00 pm

White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
124 W. Hanson St. in Whitehall

Mark your calendars! Calling all "Trash Bashers", we need your help to clean up north and south of the bike trail, parks, shoreline areas, waterways, and more!

Come one, come all! Groups and volunteers with waders, kayaks, and/or canoes are greatly needed.

Meet at the Chamber of Commerce (124 W. Hanson St. in Whitehall) on Sunday, April 21st at 1:00 pm where an action plan will be announced.

Volunteers are asked to dress accordingly with sunscreen, gloves, hats, etc. Trash bags, gloves, and refreshments will be supplied.

**There is no need to RSVP for this event*

Thanks to our vocal choir director Diane Eastman and Bell Choir director Emma Greenwood.

Thanks to our quilting group Ruth Baxter, Carol Norwick, Donna Stacy, Meg Eaton.

And to our children's leadership Amy Swope, Toni Shillaci, Christie and Lynzie Phillips, Melanie Schaafsma.

For the people who tend to the altar and bake the bread and set up and clean up: Michele and Al Wheeler, Meg and Glenn Eaton, Tony and Patty DeNicolo, Sheila Fretty.

For our property committee: Glenn Eaton, Doug Aardema, Scott Keller, Tony DeNicolo, Wietse Schaafsma, Scott Keller (who also chimes the chimes on Sundays).

These are just some of our ministry leaders. There is also our historical committee, worship leaders and readers our scout leaders and Sue Roesler who makes all those phone calls. Thank You to those named and not-yet-named in our thank-yous. As the old Kyrie prayer used to say: for those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this and every congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercies!

Pastor Ogden

Upcoming Events at Lebanon

April 1 - White Lake Chorale Rehearsal 6pm-9pm (in sanctuary)

Week of April 7 - 9am - Assemble Health Kits

April 9 - Finance Committee—6pm
Executive Board—7pm

April 14 - 3:30 pm - Girl Scouts
4:30—6:30 pm - Scout Can Drive
5-6:30 - Scouts

Quilters meet each Monday at 10:30 am (approximately)



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*)



2024

