

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

**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 : #lcsignsofgrace

THE LIGHT

Pastor's Notes

August 2024

There are two versions of the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament - Exodus 20, and Deuteronomy 5, and they are numbered differently. You can look them up yourself and see if you feel there is one or two commandments about coveting, or whether "graven images" is included or not with "you shall have no other gods."

What follows in both versions is a lot of violence, and death penalty consequences - and the inhabitants are to be "blotted out" "demolished," "dispossessed", what Moses feels is his charge from the Lord they are to fear.

One wonders if Moses got it right. "Remember you were once slaves in Egypt" - so are they to exact revenge on a people that were not the ones who made them slaves, or were they to "remember" so as not to make slaves out of others? One would naturally fear a Lord who demands violence and death.

But in the New Testament we see "fear" gradually replaced by "love. In fact, perfect love casts our fear (1 John 4), and "you have not received a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear (Romans 8).

Love looks like care for those in need
Love looks like a commitment to face challenges together
Love looks like sharing experiences and understandings, even if differences.

Love looks like respecting personal space, even as it is shared
Love develops trust over time

Love is not easy

But this love is the Jesus we recognize and wish to follow. If it isn't good news, it isn't gospel, and it isn't Jesus.

"All holy desires, all good counsels, all just works", says our evening prayer - that is the presence of Jesus Christ, and that is how "our hearts are set", to obey what God has to say so that we all "might live in peace and quietness."

This is the Jesus we know.

Pastor Ogden

August 2024
Fund of the Month
Backpacks



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

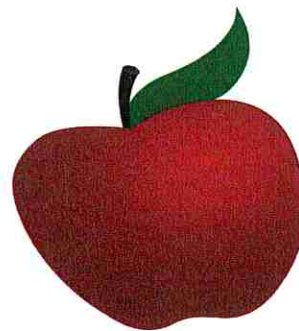
The Trevor Project 1-866-488-7386

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.

**Backpack Event at Lebanon
& in cooperation with Whitehall
Schools**

**Wednesday, August 14th
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

Backpacks with water bottles
Hot Dog dinner
Games and fun!





**North/West Lower
Michigan Synod**

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

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

In this Issue:

Witnessing to Christ in this Election Year

Bishop Visit to Arlington National Cemetery

Pastors and Facebook

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

Witnessing to Christ in this Election Year

I grew uncomfortable in chapel that Wednesday morning in 2008. The night before, November 4, Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States and addressed the nation from Chicago's Grant Park. Gathering to worship the next morning, the seminary community was optimistic, hopeful, and excited. But I grew uncomfortable as the service unfolded because the mood, and perhaps even the message, was that the Reign of God had come near; God's messianic age, if not the Messiah, had arrived. I feel that same discomfort 16 years later.

In the Nicene Creed, the church confesses, "We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God." The words *one* and *only* indicate that Jesus is unique. Jesus is God's word made flesh (John 1:14), God with us (Matthew 1:23), and the firstborn from the dead (Colossians 1:18). Perhaps most relevant this election season, Jesus unites us as God's children: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

Equating, even comparing, any person or leader with Jesus can dishonor Jesus and place that person or leader on a high pedestal that is certain to fall. Rather than identifying any leader as Jesus, we can consider how well our leaders follow Jesus's example. We can use our vote to bear witness to Jesus and elect leaders who will extend Jesus's love of neighbor.

I am sorting out how to do this in two ways this election year. First, I am reading scripture to guide my decisions and not to verify or bolster what I have already decided. I am finding the Gospel of Luke especially helpful as Luke provides a vision of what God through Christ is doing *in the world*. Consider Luke as a pundit commenting on our nation and world.

Second, I secured a teacher, a tutor, a guide, to help me think about these things. Pastor Amy E. Reumann, ELCA Witness in Society Senior Director, is providing me with guidance and learning beginning September 3. And these are not independent studies. As part of our Adult Theological Education program, all are invited to attend this six-week study. I am excited that 90 people have already registered. Yes, you can invite people beyond our synod and beyond the ELCA!

I plan to approach this opportunity with a prayerful spirit, an open mind, and an open heart. I expect my faith to be deepened and my witness to Jesus to be strengthened. I hope to gain some perspective and tools that will help me de-escalate what I fear will be a difficult and divisive autumn. I would be honored to have you join me. You can learn more and register at: <https://bit.ly/3rnwR8l>.

In Christ,

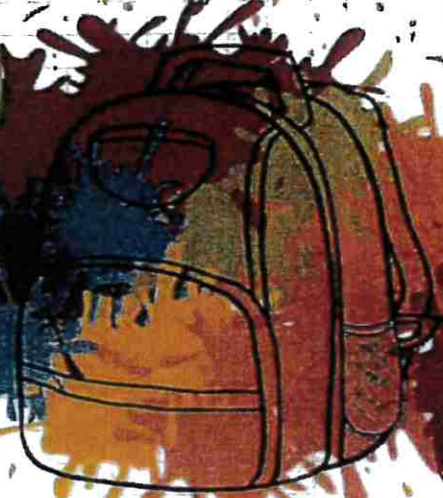
The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop

BACK TO SCHOOL

Backpack Giveaway

AUG
14

Free
Hot Dog
Dinner



5-7 PM

WHERE: Lebanon Lutheran Church * 1101 S. Mears Ave.

PARKING: Additional parking available at Shoreline Elementary

WHEN : Wednesday, August 14, 2024 – 5:00 – 7:00 PM

WHAT: 150 backpacks and water bottles will be given away

HOW IT WORKS: Students must be present with their Parent/Guardian to receive a backpack.



Lebanon Lutheran Church
Whitehall, MI



Montague
Foods

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
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

Special Prayer Concerns:

Brianne Beekman, (Terry & Mary Beekman's granddaughter) diagnosed with multiple brain tumors.
Cody, (Sharon Webb-Ziske's grandson) underwent heart transplant
Lucas Carlson, (Terry and Mary Beekmans grandson) for new treatment.
Cheri Crouch, with health concerns.
Sheila Fretty, re-occurring cancer.
Elin Frietsch, diagnosed with Lymphoma- hospitalized for treatment.
Margaret Fountain, (Mary Koenen's sister) diagnosed with multiple myeloma
Karl Glass, with health concerns
Sandy Kolb, diagnosed with 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), health issues.
Pastor Sarah Samuelson, recently diagnosed with colorectal cancer
Toni Schillaci, with eye issues.
Lois Szczerbinski, with health issues
Paul Vof, (Ken and Sandy Kolb's son-in-law) hearing issues
Billie Welch, (Cheri Crouch's nephew) with health concerns
Darlene Willbrandt, with bone infection (leg)
Mary Wilson (Meg Eaton's mother) hospitalized with hip fracture
Our neighbors in the White Lake Area, after devastating losses from the recent storms.
For families dealing with dementia

Our hearts grieve with the Pam Churchill and family and friends of Marlene Windbacher, who passed away on July 10, 2024. Memorial Services were held at Lebanon on July 18.



Worship Notes

Sunday, August 4 - Pentecost 11
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15
Psalm 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

Today we pray for:
André Richter

Prayer of the Day

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, August 11 - Pentecost 12
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

Today we pray for:
Lisa Tallarico

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, August 18 - Pentecost 13
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Proverbs 9:1-6
Psalm 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

Today we pray for:
Wayne and Sue Roesler

Prayer of the Day

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, August 25 - Pentecost 14
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

Today we pray for:
Hannah Romain

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

August 2024



8/2 Jackie Martin	8/21 Ethan Bowen
8/4 Kay Snell	8/22 Brent Will
8/14 Lori Will	8/23 Jeffrey Hendrixon
8/15 Linda Blakemore	8/24 Sandra Kolb
8/15 Robbie Rop	8/25 Logan Montgomery
8/16 Lisa Clark	8/27 Melissa Herring
8/16 Doug Roesler	8/27 Rachel Wahr Bartlett
8/16 Rikki Lee Will	8/28 Laurel Helveston Wolf
8/19 Jessica Gelvin	8/28 Nichole Page Farrar
8/20 Nicholas Will	8/31 Donna Stacy
8/20 Jessica Knoth	
8/21 Cindy Albert	



8/3/74	Frank & Rita Lundell
8/7/71	Andy & Wendy Shalifoe
8/1/91	Carl & Jennifer Nordberg
8/13/93	Randy & Cathy Nurmi
8/13/11	Seth & Megan Ahrenholz
8/21/82	Tony & Patty DeNicolo
8/22/64	Tom & Sheila Fretty
8/31/68	Harry & Yolanta Swiatek

Baptism Anniversaries



8/1 Alaina Moreau Leo
8/2 Megan Crouch
8/4 Thomas Swiatek

8/7 Jodi Nichols
8/8 Sue Roesler
8/9 Deb Statz Peabody
8/14 Gabriel DeMumbrum

8/18 Joel Fretty
8/28 Jenny Fretty
8/29 Ronald Anderson
8/29 Bill Cloutier

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 all,

I would like to start by saying that 2024 Smorgasbord will be in my heart for a long time.

For those of you who don't know I work for Consumers Energy. (I will wait while that sinks in).

On Wednesday Irene & John Parks, Mary Carlson, Ron Funderburg, Shawn Irwin, my husband, and I were sitting at a table at the church (without power) discussing what we should do for Smorgasbord. I received a call from my son, Dustin, who works for Consumers Energy dispatching crews. He said, "Mom, I am dispatching the Whitehall area, and I am very sure you won't have power". I took that to the team at the table., "What are going to do?" Everyone voted, we can do it! Even without power! My husband looked a little stunned but then by now he is used to me. I shouted to Margaret who was in the office. We are doing it!

What happened for the next 2 days was amazing. Thanks to my team at Consumers Energy and my son we had power Wednesday night.

Thanks to everyone that brought food, donated money, worked on food or clean up, or came to share a meal.

Smorgasbord was a beautiful success. We had more attendees than normal. 2024 Smorgasbord will always be in my heart. Community came together in a storm.

Flo King

Choir will be starting up September 8, 2024. I have several songs in mind already and am looking forward to presenting them. We can always use new voices, so if you have been meaning to extend your singing from the shower to broader vistas, now is the time. There are no try outs, just enjoyment of singing and willingness to: " Make a joyful noise to the Lord "

Please join us after service on September 8th and beyond. See how singing in a group can be uplifting.

Diane Eastman, choir director



Excerpt from Samaritas Newsletter

Support in welcoming the Muslim youth into our programs at Samaritas.

Lebanon Lutheran Church

The industrious ladies from **Lebanon Lutheran Church in Whitehall, Michigan** deliver quilts, blankets and quilted bags filled with a towel, cloth, soap, toothbrush, and toothpaste twice a year. They have a group of six women making these items, and most recent delivery filled two truck loads!



L-R Carol Norwick, Donna Stacy, Ruth Baxter

Greetings from Marci Bentz-Thrivent Whitehall Office

Are your finances aligned with your values?

If you look around your life, you can certainly see what is important to you in the decisions you make, where your money goes, and what your relationships look like. Calling your values out by name can be a very powerful exercise to help you keep what's most important to you top-of-mind.

Values help us understand who we are at our best and keep us aligned to our goals – financial and otherwise. For example, if you value **education** and want to prioritize paying for your daughter's college tuition, you'll be able to see the fruits of that sacrifice in a growing account. On the flip side, naming that value (and telling your favorite Financial Advisor) can get you back on track if you find yourself with too many unnecessary Amazon boxes on your front porch.

So, how can you know if your finances are aligned with your values? First, take the free online [Values Assessment](#) on the Roots & Wings website to identify your Top 5 Values. Then, spend 15-20 minutes checking out the **Align Your Finances to Your Values** [video](#) and working through the accompanying [guidebook pages](#).

Connect with me anytime if you'd like to talk through what you find – I'm here to help!

For any financial questions, needs or concerns, please call Marci Bentz, Financial Advisor, Whitehall Thrivent Office at 231-894-8886, text 231-760-8246 or email whitehalloffice@thrivent.com.



Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 South Mears Avenue
Whitehall, MI 49461

Living in God's Amazing Grace

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2 ways to submit your information:

- yellow folder in Margaret's office
(*better*)
- office@lebanonlutheranchurch.com
(*best*)

