

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

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

September 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 : #lcsignsofgrace

"In a long section of Luke's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the fear and anxiety that will infiltrate people's lives as they witness distress, persecution, calamity, and more. The cataclysmic. Events enveloping the earth will be matched only by the chaos rumbling around in people's souls. But then, in a most improbable image, Jesus starts talking about spring. He paints a parable of green leaves appearing on bare trees. Suggesting that summer and the kingdom of God are near, he calls his followers to stand tall amidst the turmoil as he summons them to live expectantly in hope (Luke 21:5-36)"

"We can choose to live with a posture of hope instead of a disposition of dread. One of the greatest gifts God hands to each of us is our ability to choose. Hope isn't some silly conviction that everything in society is just fine. It isn't fine. Hope merely visualizes a better way to walk into the future and, even more importantly, create a future"

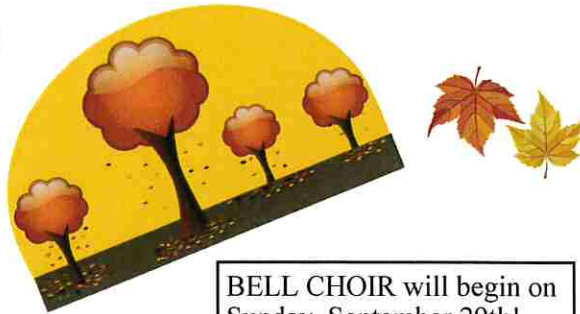
- Peter Marty, ELCA Pastor, and editor of The Christian Century, Sept 2024

There is a Way of Jesus Christ, and it is a way that has been walked for thousands of years, but it is also a way that comes into being uniquely, under the very feet of the person who walks it for the very first time. This is a paraphrase I often use from my theological hero, Jurgen Moltmann, who died this summer in Tubingen, Germany.

Hell is a life without hope; resurrection is participating in the power of a vision of what could be, a vision that emerges out of the cries of the poor, the suffering, the victims of violence – in short, from the experiences of the crosses of this life. It is by listening to those cries that we know which steps to take and which ones only serve our own self-interest, or Christian nationalism interests. Faith, then, is taking the steps, uncertain as they might be, as if grace was really true. Faith takes the steps to live into a new world, starting with a new kind of community, open to the seed of God's word, open to the gifts of those very different from ourselves, open to the gifts given uniquely to you, which you may not even realize you have.

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**September 2024
Fund of the Month
Faith Formation**



BELL CHOIR will begin on Sunday, September 29th!

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.



Choir will be starting up September 15, 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



**North/West Lower
Michigan Synod**

**P.O. Box 517
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mittensynod.org**

In this Issue:
Jesus is Keeping His Promise!
Visit to Papua New Guinea
Christian Nationalism
"Created to Be" in New Orleans
Upcoming Events
Congregations in Transition

Jesus is Keeping His Promise!

Jesus is Keeping His Promise! In this Issue: Jesus is Keeping His Promise! Visit to Papua New Guinea Christian Nationalism I anticipate our synod will celebrate two ordinations in the coming months. Our Candidacy Committee approved Ms. Bridget Whately and Ms. Megan Floyd—both members of Prince of Peace in Portage—for ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thanks be to God! Pastor-Elect Whately is called by Peace in Sparta and will be ordained at Prince of Peace in Portage on August 24. Ms. Floyd is completing internship and prayerfully reviewing paperwork for several congregations in our synod.

"Created to Be" in New Orleans Upcoming Events Congregations in Transition The rite of ordination describes the meaning of ordination when the presiding minister says to those to be ordained: "According to apostolic usage you are now to be entrusted with the office of word and sacrament in the one holy catholic church by the laying on of hands and by prayer." As the rite explains, while "all baptized Christians are called to share in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation," Lutheran Christians believe that, within the people of God and for the sake of the gospel ministry entrusted to all believers, God has instituted the office of ministry of word and sacrament so that the Gospel is preached rightly and the sacraments administered faithfully. For Lutheran Christians understand the church is not a building; the church is more than people. The church is "the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel" (Augsburg Confession, V, VII).

Through their proclamation of the Word and administration of the Sacraments, Ministers of Word and Sacrament are means by which Jesus keeps his promise to be with us always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). Ministers of Word and Sacrament proclaim the good news of Jesus, that we are saved by his grace, that we do not have to earn God's love, and that we cannot lose God's love. They don't tell us that Jesus is knocking at the door of our heart and we need to let him in or that we have to accept Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior as a condition for Jesus to save us. Ministers of Word and Sacrament tell us what God through Christ is doing and they invite us to be part of it, rather than telling us what we should, ought, or must

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do. Ministers of Word and Sacrament assure us that baptism is God's gift, joining us personally to Jesus's death and resurrection, and not an obstacle. They assure us that Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper to love, forgive, and empower us, and that holy communion is more than a memorial of the Last Supper or a congregation's fellowship feast.

Ordinations are dear to me, I suspect in the same way baptisms are dear to pastors, because we get to participate as Jesus keeps his promise to be with us always. I developed a heart for ordination when, as a seminary professor, I was honored to preach when some of my students were ordained. How inspiring to encounter some of them at the youth gathering and experience the remarkable pastors they've become! Yes, I also get to experience this in some of our synod's pastors who, once-upon-a-time, I taught. Jesus is keeping his promise. Ordaining pastors and deacons is the only thing our church entrusts solely to bishops. During my time as bishop, I have been privileged to ordain 21 pastors and 2 deacons. I have precious memories of all of them; permit me to tell you about one.

Pastor Kate Van Valkenburg was ordained on July 25, 2020. The world was in the midst of a global pandemic. Personally, I visited the ophthalmologist in Chicago on July 23; she was so concerned about the pressure in my right eye that she wanted me to check into the hospital and have surgery the next day. I declined; no, I refused. Something inside me would not allow myself to be the reason Jesus did not raise up a pastor to preach the word and administer the sacraments when the church, the world, and I all needed hope in the face of the sickness, isolation, and death brought on by the pandemic. So the doctor spent the day using drops to bring the pressure down and Cathy and I returned home.

The night before the ordination, my friend and pastor, Gary Bunge, presented the personal crozier he had made for me during the pandemic—a concrete expression of my call as bishop. The next day, carrying that crozier, and clad in cope, miter, and mask, I gathered with perhaps a dozen others for the ordination. Kate's pastor preached. I laid on hands for ordination at arm's length. I really do not recall whether we shared the Lord's Supper. But Jesus was truly present, raising up a pastor to proclaim that Jesus is with us—the world, the church, and each of us—always, to the end of the age.

Many of the trimmings and the trappings that usually accompany ordination were missing. From my perspective, that only made the core, the center, the good news shine brighter. Jesus keeps his promise to be with us always, to the end of the age. That evening, I prayed with David and Rosanne. The next day, trusting Jesus's promise, Cathy and I returned to Chicago for surgery on Monday. Trusting Jesus's promise, Kate began her pastoral ministry. The pandemic continued. And Jesus was with us. Jesus still is. Jesus will always be—always, to the end of the age. And more, Jesus ordains people who devote their lives to publicly proclaiming this good news.

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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. 95337 W. McMillan, N. Muskegon 49445
Mary Bernhardt, at Robinswood Assisted Living #115 (Kay Snell) 2650 Ruddiman, N. Muskegon 49445
Jane Blyth, 28801 Jefferson Ave., Apt. 332; Saint Clair Shores, MI 48081
Chris Claus, American House - 18100 174th Avenue, Spring Lake, MI 49456
Karl Glass, with health concerns, 3232 Richmond NW, Walker, MI 49534
Marlene Holmstrom, at Hillcrest for rehab after a fall. 695 Mitzi, North Muskegon, MI 49445
Ken & Sandy Kolb, with health issues - 6755 W. Old Channel Trail; Montague 49437
Elaine Liska, Sunrise Senior Living—Sunrise of Troy; 6870 Crooks Road, Troy, MI 48098-1704.
Elaine Liska—Room 130.
Phyllis Monte, at Legacy of Caring - Whitehall—1302 Warner Street, Whitehall 49461
Ruth Nurmi, with health concerns—308 E. Dayton Street, Fremont, 49412
Barb Smith, at Legacy of Caring - Whitehall—1302 Warner Street, Whitehall 49461

Special Prayer Concerns:

Brianne Beekman, (Terry & Mary Beekman's granddaughter) diagnosed with multiple brain tumors.
Lucas Carlson, (Terry and Mary Beekmans grandson) for new treatment.
Sheila Fretty, re-occurring cancer.
Elin Frietsch, diagnosed with Lymphoma
Larry Frietsch, on Hospice care at home
Margaret Fountain, (Mary Koenen's sister) diagnosed with multiple myeloma
Karl Glass, with health concerns
Lon Grover, (Lucinda Grover's brother) with health concerns.
Dwight Mead (Paula Moreau's brother-in-law), non-hodgkin lymphoma mantel type (stage four).
Pastor Sarah Samuelson, at home, diagnosed with colorectal cancer
Paul Vos, (Ken and Sandy Kolb's son-in-law) hearing issues
Billie Welch (Cheri Crouch's nephew) with health issues
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

Cheri Crouch would like to thank you for all your prayers during her recent health issues.



Worship Notes

Sunday, September 1—Pentecost 15
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
Psalm 15
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Today we pray for:
Kate Kesteloot Scarbrough

Prayer of the Day

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, September 8 - Pentecost 16
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Today we pray for:
Carl & Linda Schenten

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, September 15 - Pentecost 17
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 116:1-9
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Today we pray for:
Sulyn Dean Schmuker

Prayer of the Day

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, September 22 - Pentecost 18
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalm 54
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Today we pray for:
Lora Swenson

Prayer of the Day

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, September 29 - Michael and All Angels
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: White

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3
Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22
Revelation 12:7-12
Luke 10:17-20

Today we pray for:
Amy Swope

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, you have wonderfully established the ministries of angels and mortals. Mercifully grant that as Michael and the angels contend against the cosmic forces of evil, so by your direction they may help and defend us here on earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God whom we worship and praise with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, now and forever. **Amen.**

September 2024



| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 9/1 Lorey Montgomery | 9/19 Shawn Erwin |
| 9/1 Megan Nelson Fretty | 9/20 Robert Lathrop |
| 9/2 Richard Bernhardt | 9/21 Chad Parks |
| 9/3 Paula Moreau Williamson | 9/22 Jason Roesler |
| 9/5 Heather Wiethoff | 9/23 Jodi Emms |
| 9/6 Melissa Berry | 9/23 Stephen Ogden |
| 9/6 Marlene Holmstrom | 9/24 Jeff Holmstrom |
| 9/6 Deb Statz Peabody | 9/24 Chris Soraruf |
| 9/7 Josh Keller | 9/25 Peter Fretty |
| 9/8 Robin Civis | 9/25 Helen Allshouse |
| 9/8 Darlene Willbrandt | 9/26 Kerri Bernhardt |
| 9/10 Valerie Johnson | 9/27 Nate Aardema |
| 9/11 Brian Jaekel | 9/27 Linda Meier |
| 9/12 Dennis Roesler II | 9/28 Kim Nelson |
| 9/13 Zachary Bowen | 9/28 Mark Will |
| 9/14 Alice Hollister | 9/29 Linda Everitt |
| 9/18 Mary Carlson Beekman | 9/29 Tom Foster |
| 9/18 Bob Palmer | 9/29 Jeffrey Soraruf |
| 9/18 Sue Roesler | 9/30 Jennifer Shalifoe |
| 9/19 Dale Bouck | |
| 9/19 Cheri Crouch | |



| | |
|---------|--|
| 9/4/93 | Jay & Mardi Otto |
| 9/8/18 | Frank and Alice Hollister |
| 9/6/14 | Michael and Rebecca (Stacy) Chynoweth- |
| 9/9/77 | Mike & Kay Snell |
| 9/11/82 | Rick & Holly Hughes |
| 9/13/14 | Carol Ann (Deneke) & Terry |
| 9/14/03 | Terry and Mary Beekman |
| 9/17/22 | Jeffrey & Macie Hendrixon |
| 9/19/92 | Dwight & Michelle Roesler |
| 9/22/90 | Don & Amy Romain |
| 9/23/72 | Roger & JoAnne Silk |
| 9/26/87 | Jim and Flo King |
| 9/26/92 | Troy and Mary Gallihugh |
| 9/29/61 | Karl & Shirley Glass |

Baptism Anniversaries



| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 9/7 Lois Szczerbinski | 9/19 Jessica Gelvin |
| 9/11 Ethan Reynolds | 9/20 Brittney Roesler |
| 9/13 Wayne Roesler | 9/23 Brooke Otto |
| 9/18 Molly Crouch Mooren | 9/29 Morgan Hughes |
| 9/18 Brianne Roesler | |

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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If you have never experienced an ordination or if you need some hope, do yourself a favor and come. As I said, I anticipate our synod will celebrate two ordinations in the coming months. And if you might be experiencing even an inkling that Jesus is nudging you to spend your life publicly proclaiming that Jesus loves all people, that we are saved by grace, that Jesus is with us always, to the end of the age, reach out to your pastor, to Pastor Bright, or to me. If that is too big of a step, visit elcaseminaries.org and journi.faith, explore their resources, and pray to your father who is in secret. Finally, if you know someone who should consider becoming a pastor, tell them. People started telling me when I was in elementary school; it took years to stick.

“Almighty and merciful God, you built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and you instituted the office of the ministry of word and sacrament so that the apostolic and prophetic work might continue throughout the ages. Grant that Bridget and Megan, [preparing] to be ordained, may carry out this ministry faithfully in the power of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.”

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

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God’s will gets done without our praying for it. But when we pray, we pray that it gets done among us. God’s kingdom comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray that it gets done through us (slight paraphrase of Luther’s Small Catechism on the Lord’s Prayer)

“Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Luke 21:28).

Pastor Ogden

Lebanon Picnic at Hollister’s Water’s Edge Lodge
Sunday, September 8, 2024 at 1:00 pm

Potluck Picnic

Please bring a lawn chair, dish to pass and towels
and swim suits if you wish.



The Ragnar Relay will be starting the course in Traverse City on Friday, and racing into Muskegon on Saturday, September 21. This means that they will be arriving at Lebanon anywhere from 5am to 3:30 pm.



If anyone is interested in helping with coffee / refreshments, please let the church office know.

Greetings from Marci Bentz-Thrivent Whitehall Office

Eleven Ways to Help Yourself Stay Sane in a Crazy Market

Keeping your cool can be hard to do when the market goes on one of its periodic roller-coaster rides. It's useful to have strategies in place that prepare you both financially and psychologically to handle market volatility. Here are 11 ways to help you keep yourself from making hasty decisions that could have a long-term impact on your ability to achieve your financial goals.

1. Have a game plan – Having predetermined guidelines that recognize the potential for turbulent times can help prevent emotion from dictating your decisions.
2. Know what you own and why you own it – When the market goes off the tracks, knowing why you originally made a specific investment can help you evaluate whether your reasons still hold, regardless of what the overall market is doing.
3. Remember that everything is relative – Most of the variance in the returns of different portfolios can generally be attributed to their asset allocations. Review to see if you've got a well-diversified portfolio.
4. Tell yourself that this too shall pass – The financial markets are historically cyclical. A well-thought-out asset allocation is still the basis of good investment planning.
5. Be willing to learn from your mistakes – Expert help can help prepare you and your portfolio to both weather and take advantage of the market's up and downs.
6. Consider playing defense – During volatile periods in the stock market, many investors re-examine their allocations.
7. Stay on course by continuing to save- Even if the value of your holdings fluctuates, regularly adding to an account designed for a long-term goal may cushion the emotional impact of market swings.
8. Use cash to help manage your mindset – Having a cash cushion coupled with a disciplined investing strategy can change your perspective on the market volatility.
9. Remember your road map – Solid asset allocation is the basis of sound investing.
10. Look in the rear-view mirror- If you're investing long term, sometimes it helps to take a look back and see how far you've come.
11. Take it easy – If you feel you need to make changes in your portfolio, there are ways to do so short of a total makeover. Taking gradual steps is one way to spread your risk over time, as well as over a variety of asset classes.

For 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.



White Lake Women—Flower Sale
Lebanon Parking Lot
September 7, 2024
9am to 12 noon



Scout Can Drive
Sunday, September 8th
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
@ Lebanon Lutheran



Lebanon Lutheran Church

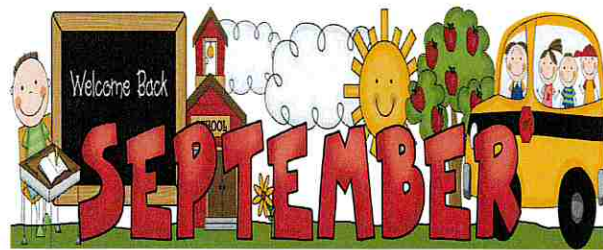
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Living in God's Amazing Grace

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