

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

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

October 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

Most people know that Springfield, Ohio is my original hometown - the first 28 years of my life. Went to school there, went to college there. Met and married my wife there. Married and ordained in the magnificent Weaver Chapel at Wittenberg University there.

Springfield's been in the news lately -- you may have heard of it.

Fabricated stories, salacious rumors and general fear-mongering have been effective political tools that have left the people and especially the town's leadership stressed, traumatized & tested. It is a strategy that plays well politically and always has. When the antagonists do their damage, they move on from the mess they've made and the local heroes emerge and go to work.

Wittenberg is back in session, the thirty three bomb threats have been de-bunked, almost \$100,000 has been raised for the city schools & the Haitian Center. The long-term, long-overdue work of immigration reform, housing, and city services continues.

As always you see the hands of Jesus in the helpers, the cross of Christ in those hurt, and the resurrection in those healing, cooperating, recovering, returning to classes, providing security; in short, helping their neighbors. You can match their deeds to every word of Luther's Small Catechism on the Commandments.

Most especially the eighth:

"We are to revere & love God so much that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations; instead, we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret every thing they do in the best possible light."

I am glad someone in Springfield, Ohio made me learn that, and I hope it is how you live your Christian life as well.

Pastor Ogden



Hayride & Potluck

Sunday, October 20, 2024
Scholl Farms
5955 Eilers Road
Montague, MI 49437

4pm—7:30 pm

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.



Please Notice This



On October 3-6 we are hosting a DeColores Women’s Retreat.

This is a closed retreat and outside presence is not allowed.

Please conduct any business you may have prior to October 3rd.

Some of you may already know that I plan to “retire” effective January 1, 2025.

Essentially, I am reducing my hours to 16 hours per week, working Monday— Thursday 9am to 1pm.

With that given, I am looking for volunteers who can come in once a month and fold, label, and stamp the newsletter.
Meg Eaton has graciously agreed to compile The Light, and I can copy it while I am here in the office. But I need your help!

I look forward to continuing to be the office manager at Lebanon while affording time with my family as well.

Margaret Everling
Office Manager

RETIREMENT



Greetings from Marci Bentz-Thrivent Whitehall Office

Back to school means back to routine. The structure that can come from this season, while often-times a relief, can cause some of us to bristle. Many of us resist structure in certain areas of our lives because we are afraid it will steal our freedom. Take following a budget, for example. Maybe you want to spend what you want, when you want to. The irony is that living in a free-for-all like this actually makes you a slave to the very structure you were avoiding. (Spending through all of your money can lead to the freedom-less declaration of bankruptcy!)

Roots & Wings, a partner non-profit organization helping families live and leave a legacy, uniquely speaks to this topic and can help you identify where you are on this continuum, give you practical steps to create simple changes, and even navigate the pain points associated with these realizations. Explore these resources at www.rootsandwingslegacy.org/nurture (in Video 2 called Embracing Structure.)

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

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 - 17383 174th Avenue, Spring Lake, MI 49456

Karl & Shirley Glass, with health concerns, 3232 Richmond NW, Walker, MI 49534

Marlene Holmstrom, at home. 2643 Benston, Whitehall, MI 49461

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

Donna Will, at The Poppen House, 2065 E. Mt. Garfield Road, Muskegon, MI 49444

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

Margaret Fountain, (Mary Koenen's sister) diagnosed with multiple myeloma

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

For families dealing with dementia

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

Bishop's Newsletter— September 2024
North/West Lower Michigan Synod P.O. Box 517 Dewitt, MI 48820
517-321-5066
mittensynod.org

When is the Right Time? In this Issue: When is the Right Time? When Change Comes... I have always tried to keep my promises, but after much thought I have made the decision to retire from full-time ministry on November 30, 2024. I originally told Bishop Satterlee I would stay to the end of this term in the summer of 2025; however, many things have happened over the years that influenced my decision to move that date forward.

Since 2010, Sue and I have each lost both of our parents, my sister and her husband, Sue's younger sister, and her older sister's husband. We have also experienced the COVID pandemic and the birth of our only grandchild. I now share ownership of the family home in South Carolina, where my younger brother lives. He recently had heart valve replacement surgery and so I work with him to maintain the property and have a place to hang out during the depths of winter. Life seems to be slipping away. Our grandchild just started first grade and is already reading at a third grade level. Soon he will be a teenager and grandparents may not seem so cool. I started to teach him how to fish and he wants to be my fishing buddy. I want to be a memorable part of his life. Sue and I celebrated 48 years of marriage this summer and on September 7, I will celebrate 44 years of ordained ministry. The week after that, I will turn 69. It is time to slow down and redirect.

In consultation with Sue, my family, and our financial advisor, I broke the news to Bishop Satterlee a few months ago of my retirement date and since that time he has been supportive and has begun to plot how the transition will happen. I am not moving anywhere. At the permission of Bishop Satterlee, I will continue some of the things I am passionate about including Disaster Response, Living Water Ministries Board, the You Are Witnesses Retreats, and the Response Team. I am sorry if this puts extra burden on the staff and others and will do whatever I can to help when I can.

In my ministry so far, I have served St. Thomas, Trufant Michigan; Calvary, Northwood, Ohio; Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio; Christ the King, Gladwin, Michigan; and the North/West Lower Michigan Synod and ELCA. It has been an honor and a privilege that God has called me to serve in these many different ways and I look forward to what God has in mind for this next chapter of my life.

The Rev. David E. Sprang
Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission



Worship Notes

Sunday, October 6 - Pentecost 20
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Genesis 2:18-24
Psalm 8
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

Today we pray for:
Ravynna & Clay Tolliver-Yin

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, October 13 - Pentecost 21
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

Today we pray for:
Larry & Holly VanderPlaats

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, October 20 - Pentecost 22
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Isaiah 53:4-12
Psalm 91:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

Today we pray for:
Rob & Brittany Wahr

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, October 27 - Reformation Sunday
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Red

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Today we pray for:
Paula & John Williamson

Prayer of the Day

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

2024



10/3 August Frietsch	10/23 Tom Fretty
10/3 Kristine Jordahl	10/25 Meg Eaton
10/5 Milan Jurik	10/25 Karen Hosticka Bruder
10/5 Sue Otterman	10/25 Debbie Svensson
10/6 Eric Rop	10/27 Finn DeMumbrum
10/6 Linda Schenten	10/27 Verne Sutherland
10/10 Curt Crouch	10/29 Stefanie Honoré
10/10 Nora Gaiser	10/30 Anna Otterman
10/12 Brian Holmblade	10/31 Jonathon Bartlett
10/12 Bruce Holmblade	
10/12 Andreas Holmblade	
10/12 Holly Moog	
10/17 Shirley Glass	
10/19 Carol Deneke	
10/19 Rob Montgomery	
10/20 Becky Wahr	
10/21 Daniel Civis	
10/22 Oliver Wyatt	



10/5/13	Mallory & Keith Lothschutz
10/5/19	Don and Danielle Jacobs
10/6/12	Corey and Rachael (Wahr) Bartlett
10/7/95	Rocky & Linda Decker
10/8/88	Lee & Debbie Swenson
10/13/84	Don & Kim Nelson
10/26/63	Bob & Sharon Ackerman

Baptism Anniversaries



10/3 Kristine Jordahl	10/10 Violet Mae Stacy	10/29 Pete Fretty
10/4 Minnie Estlund	Chynoweth	10/29 Megan Nelson
10/10 Charles Xavier Schmalz	10/20 Frank Lundell	10/30 Cheri Crouch
10/10 Townes Ernest Vandebunte	10/20 Rachel Wahr Bartlett	10/30 Sally Hollister Jackson
	10/23 Lauralee Kesteloot	

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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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.

Bishop's Newsletter When Endings Come... September 2024

Ending is coming to a ministry that is important to me. Each summer from 1988–2024, the ACTS Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program gathered an ecumenical cohort of preachers from across the United States, Canada, Sweden, and several other countries—along with leading teachers of preaching—for three weeks of classes in Chicago. The students then returned home and, working with a group in their congregation, integrated what they learned into their preaching. I served as dean of this program from 2002–2014. I loved both the work and the people I worked with. Ending my service was hard.

In June, this program held its last summer residency and will end after graduation in 2025. Even though I've been away for more than a decade, I was stunned when I received this news. Learning ending is coming to something in which I had so invested myself was hard. Part of me wanted to stop ending from coming. I considered attending the closing celebration. Thankfully, the bishop in me counseled the former dean in me that my presence would not be helpful. The last thing the program's current leaders needed was me showing up feeling sad or mad or as if I still had a say.

Even more thankfully, a friend who would attend the celebration telephoned and invited my remembrances and reflections. I recalled cherished friendships. I was able to express that the program was important to me. I acknowledged the work we did was meaningful. I admitted I'm sad the program is ending. And I declared my support for the leaders who made the decision to end. Then, to my surprise, another friend sent me a coffee mug from the closing celebration, which I will cherish, at least for a time. When endings come, we grieve. We grieve even harder when we are powerless to stop endings from coming. So, we do our best to express our grief rather than attack, blame, or undermine others.

Ending is coming to a partnership that is dear to me. My friend David is retiring as Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop in November. David and I became partners in November 2013 and made our partnership official in January 2014. David loves the work and loves the people with whom he works, by which I mean David loves this synod. I expect David will find ending his service hard. I expect that, in the coming years, David will have to watch from the sidelines as ending comes to things in which he invested himself. We can do as my friends did for me and invite David to remember, reflect, and grieve.

I am curious what retirement will look like for David. I give him 15 minutes rocking on his porch before he is on to something else. In reality, David is moving into the next chapter of his life. This will be inconvenient, disruptive, even scary for our synod and for us. We can either bless David or resent David. I recall sitting at my desk in Chicago the day after I was elected bishop. One after another, people filed in to express their dismay that I was forsaking my call to teach preaching, which came from the whole church, to serve a single synod as bishop. Boy, was I feeling guilty because I was deserting my post. Thankfully, a colleague sat down across from me and said, "Craig, you are an excellent preaching professor. You were built to be a bishop." On my last evening in my office, as I was picking up the last box, putting my keys in my

Continued on Page 11

desk drawer, and closing my locked office door behind me, another colleague stepped up and quietly thanked me for my service and assured me that God was calling me to be bishop. When endings come, we bless. We thank. We keep our disappointment and resentment to ourselves, or we find someone safe with whom to share it. We will bless and thank David on November 2 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Gladwin. Please plan to join us and RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/3MCCDu8>

Of course, when endings come, we panic. We want to know what comes next. We want to know that everything will be okay. We want answers to questions that no one has the answers to yet. Pastor David, Pastor Chrisy, and I will work together to develop a plan in which David deliberately relinquishes responsibilities in the course of the next three months. I am hoping for a step down rather than a sudden stop. We will keep you posted as the plan unfolds. We will undoubtedly miss something, so we ask for your patience and understanding.

After all, when endings come, some moments are simply jarring. A couple weeks after I was elected bishop, the faculty called a meeting to which I was not invited. It was jarring to be excluded from a meeting of the faculty to which I'd belong for 13 years when there were still three months before I began serving as bishop. It's hard to live in that in-between space—gone from where you are and not arrived at where you are going. David will experience this—and so will we. When endings come, we therefore endeavor to be understanding and tender with one another.

When endings come, we wait. From December through May, we will be assisted by what church-wide calls "a phone-a-friend DEM" who will advise us "in case you [Bishop Craig] get in over your head." David and I smiled. Basically, this DEM will consult and keep us informed of everything churchwide wants us to be informed of as Pastor Chrisy and I do the work on the ground. We will begin the process of calling our next DEM and Assistant to the Bishop either in June or October, depending on the outcome of the bishop election in May. If we begin in June, we might expect the position to be filled in September; if we begin in October, we might expect the position to be filled in January.

Most important, when endings come, we trust. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26). Jesus does not keep endings from coming. Jesus' life ended on the cross. And from that ending came a new beginning, as Jesus rose to bring new life as Easter dawned.

When endings come, we can bury our heads in the sand and hope that they will pass us by. We can raise our fists and shout in an attempt to scare endings away. Or we can stand on the rock that is Christ, look endings squarely in the face, acknowledge through our tears that endings are coming, prepare for the endings that will come, and trust Jesus to bring new life.

I know from congregational leaders that I am not alone. Endings are coming to ministries that are important and partnerships that are dear to many of us—in our synod, yes, and also in congregations. Endings are hard and we will grieve. Jesus is with us and will bring new life. I am eager to accompany you on this journey. Please invite me to come alongside whenever I can be helpful.

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



Lebanon Lutheran Church

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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*)

