

**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

**Bulletin Announcements**  
Margaret Everling

**Newsletter Editor**  
Meg Eaton

**Church Council**  
Cheri Crouch      Dave Dusenberry  
Laura Hollister      Wietse Schaafsma  
Sarah Schmalz      Amy Swope  
Al Wheeler

**"We are baptized members of God's  
Church, forgiven and set free by grace  
through faith.**

**[www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com](http://www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com)**

**Facebook: Lebanon Lutheran Church  
(ELCA)**

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

# THE LIGHT



**Pastor's Notes**

**April 2025**

"Lift every voice and sing, 'til earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmony of liberty"

Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, April 20, 2025. For the people of the biblical world, resurrection was a common belief; that the Messiah would be crucified – that did not compute. For us, the cross is an easy thing to believe in – we have plenty of cross-like situations to choose from. What is hard for us is resurrection.

By itself, faith in resurrection can become a retreat into other-worldliness, or a focus on "after life", denying its world-changing power. By itself, activism is important, but it can leave a person exhausted and hopeless.

Worshipping on a Sunday gives faith a chance to be renewed, in spirit, and also deepen our commitment to our work in the world as well as increase our certainty in who we are in God's eyes.

So, we will make personal care kits even as Samaritas works through how to get things done under "the powers that be" (that's from Romans 13:2). We will assemble them on Palm Sunday April 13 at 9 am – Ruth Baxter let me twist her arm into being the leader that morning. Come be a part of it. There will be no Adult Forum until April 27 – bring your copy of Living Lutheran magazine for discussion. There are a few in the magazine rack to borrow. It will be good to have this discussion time back, even if it is not only quarterly. It keeps us connected to the whole ELCA.

Use the time then to re-live Stephen's Kendrick Lamar presentation from March and maybe then go back and watch the Super Bowl halftime show so many of us skipped back in January.

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**April 2025**  
Fund of the Month

**Good Gifts**

**Websites of Interest**

[www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com](http://www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com)

[www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org)

[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

[www.whitelakescouting.com](http://www.whitelakescouting.com)

[www.whitelakechorale.com](http://www.whitelakechorale.com)

[www.hopescarves.org](http://www.hopescarves.org)

[LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org)

[www.samaritas.org](http://www.samaritas.org)

**Suicide Hotline** [1-800-273TALK.org](http://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](http://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.



## Bishop's Newsletter—March 2025

In February, rostered ministers of our synod conversed with Dr. Charles Campbell, Professor Emeritus of Homiletics (Preaching) at Duke Divinity School, about Lent as a time for resisting the powers that oppose God and that are at work in us, our systems and institutions, and in the world. Dr. Campbell asserts that Lent is framed in Scripture as a season of resistance to these powers. Moreover, since Lent is historically a time to prepare for baptism (or renew our baptismal promises), Lent as a time of resistance is highlighted by the extraordinary baptismal renunciations in ELW (cranberry hymnal):

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Considering these renunciations in the context of the current state of our church, nation, world, and planet reminds me of words from the Ash Wednesday liturgy in LBW (green hymnal): "As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love—the discipline of Lent—help us to wage our spiritual warfare." While ELW uses the words "contend" and "resist," during this particular Lent, "wage our spiritual warfare" resonates with me because many people—including me—feel under attack and unmoored from values we considered unshakable and are struggling to resist and to find some semblance of equilibrium. For many people, this Lent is neither safe nor tame.

Dr. Campbell invited us to use the renunciations from our baptismal liturgy as a way of resisting the powers and, I would add, waging our spiritual warfare. How do we do this?

We dismiss the powers when they try to sidetrack us. For example, the powers might tell us that Lent is exclusively about our individual soul and spiritual life. It's not. God has more in mind than saving souls. Again, renouncing "the devil" might sidetrack us into speculation over whether there really is a literal devil. Such speculation misses the point. The devil is evil in its concrete, real world expressions. We perceive the devil around us and experience the devil within us. A colleague calls the devil "the enemy," as in, "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8 NIV). Those who have been pursued by the enemy intent on devouring them and defying God know the devil is not a matter for speculation. Don't let evil, the devil, or the forces that defy God tell you otherwise.

We renounce powers, not people. I am not talking about hating the sin and loving the sinner. We get beyond deeds and those who do them to examine the powers of this world that rebel against God by working in individuals and systems, including both church and state, to contradict love of God and neighbor. For example, I have said for years that mammon—money, wealth—is working hard to replace Jesus as Lord of the church. I wonder whether the spirits of entitlement and survival undermine the church's proclamation of the gospel. I fear the desire to hold onto power is causing civic leaders to let go of our values. Like many others, I am attempting to identify the powers at work in tariffs, pausing military aid to Ukraine, shutting down USAID, and cutting the Department of Education, and the Veterans Administration.

We dive deeply into scripture, not to find what we should, ought, or must be doing but to discover and remind ourselves who God is and what God is doing. From my recent sermon to the Conference of

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Bishops: "The good news we glimpse on the Mount of Transfiguration is that God will deliver God's people from captivity and oppression as often as God must do it. Even when, like the worshipers of the golden calf, we bring captivity and oppression on ourselves. Injustice, oppression, infection, invasion, division, deportation, and hate will end. Jesus will lead us from these places of fear, despair, deprivation, and exhaustion to the fulfillment of God's reign." God's deliverance does not depend upon us. God's deliverance does not depend upon circumstance. God's deliverance depends upon God. And God's deliverance does not come without a cost; Jesus went to the cross to deliver us.

We pay attention to the verbs as we consider these renunciations—defy, rebel against, draw from God. Is this what is happening in and around us? Is something openly resisting or refusing to obey God? Is something fighting against God's authority or rule or reign? Is something attempting to obtain something—us, our church, our world—that rightfully belongs to God? We renounce these things. We abandon, reject, stop using or consuming them. This is harder than giving up candy and the reason Lent is a "struggle" and "our spiritual warfare."

We name the powers. Scripture teaches that, in naming the powers, they lose some of their power. Jesus asked the demon "What is your name?" and the demon replied "My name is Legion, for we are many" (Mark 5:9; Luke 8:30). We don't learn to name the powers in our head. We name the powers by attending to our emotions and what is happening in our bodies. What is causing us to feel anxious, angry, or afraid? What is causing us to eat too much or not at all? What is making it hard to get out of bed? What is keeping us up at night? Why are we obsessed with or afraid to watch the news? How much time are we spending on social media? Push beyond the circumstances to what they cause or represent in you individually and communally. How are they influencing your routine and actions?

We renounce the powers. Actually renounce the powers out loud. "I renounce them." If you prefer something scriptural, try, "Get behind me, Satan" (Matthew 16:23; Mark 8:33). Luther would have us stand up, face down the devil, and yell, "I am baptized! Nothing can separate me from God's love in Jesus Christ" (Romans 8:38–39). Allow your renunciation to find expression in repentance, prayer, fasting, and works of love—the discipline of Lent—as we wage our spiritual warfare.

We do not stop at renunciation. As we do in the baptismal liturgy, we turn to what we believe. Three times, once for each Person of the Trinity, we are asked, "Do you believe?" Three times, we respond together, "I believe." And we do not stop with these words; together we confess the Apostles Creed. "I believe," spoken together. This simple action emphasizes a common belonging. The Creed puts into words the church's "I believe" so that we can speak and hear them. We can quibble about the details and lament the limits of language to capture the mystery of the triune God, including Jesus's incarnation, passion, death, and resurrection. We certainly must be clear about what the Creed does and does not confess. We must certainly grasp that "believe" is more about "trust" than "intellectual assent."

But the gift of the Creed is that, when the powers are so powerful that I cannot answer, "I believe," I can stand in worship and listen to people all around me answer for me by saying the Creed and believing on my behalf. And I can recall that Christians in congregations across the ages and throughout the world saying the Creed and believing with me. Oh, and I can say the Creed myself, and perhaps discover the way I do believe. And some days I can say the Creed for no reason other than someone around me might need me to say it for them.

And together we resist the powers. After all, we can only say "I renounce" because we say "I believe." So, I continue this Lenten journey believing for and with you—and relying on you to believe for and with me. I pray our trust in God frees and empowers us to renounce and resist the powers.

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

## 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:

**Helen Bartlett**, at daughter Carol Roods' home now.

5337 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 Glass**, @ Edison Christian Health Care Center, 1000 Edison St., Grand Rapids, MI 49504. Room #382.

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

**Marlene Holmstrom**, at home. 2643 Benston Road, Whitehall, 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

### Special Prayer Concerns:

**Brianne Beekman**, (Terry & Mary Beekman's granddaughter) diagnosed with multiple brain tumors.

**Esther & Roy Baldridge**, Esther is starting chemotherapy treatment.

**Lucas Carlson**, (Terry and Mary Beekmans grandson) for new treatment.

**Sheila Fretty**, re-occurring cancer.

**Margaret Fountain**, (Mary Koenen's sister) diagnosed with multiple myeloma suffered a relapse.  
 New treatment has begun.

**Dottie Holmblade**, (Brian Holmblade's sister) for no side effects from chemotherapy restarted for cancer diagnosis

**Lauralee Kesteloot**, recuperating after a hip fracture

**Dwight Mead** (Paula Moreau's brother-in-law), non-hodgkin lymphoma mantel type (stage four).

**Harry & Yolanta Swiatek**; Harry uses a wheelchair and is in a nursing home between Pentwater and Ludington. Yolanta is now at home & thanks the congregation for the prayers for them both.

**Linda Umstead**, (Carol Norwick's sister), with health issues

**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 6 — Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: Purple**

### Readings

**Isaiah 43:16-21**  
**Psalm 126**  
**Philippians 3:4b-14**  
**John 12:1-8**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Elly Hendrixon**

### Prayer of the Day

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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**Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: Purple**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Marie Hendrixon**

### Readings

**Luke 19:28-40**  
**Isaiah 50:4-9a**  
**Psalm 31:9-16**  
**Philippians 2:5-11**  
**Luke 22:14 — 23:56**

### Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sunday, April 20—The Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Day**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: Gold**

**Readings**

**Acts 10:34-43**  
**Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**  
**1 Corinthians 15:19-26**  
**Luke 24:1-12**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Samantha Hendrixon**

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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**Sunday, April 27, Second Sunday of Easter**  
**Worship - 10:15 am**

**Color: White**

**Readings**

**Genesis 45:3-11,15**  
**Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40**  
**1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**  
**Luke 6:27-38**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Vicki & Alan Hinks**

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# April



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

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

### 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.*

### **Lenten Wednesday Evening Gatherings**

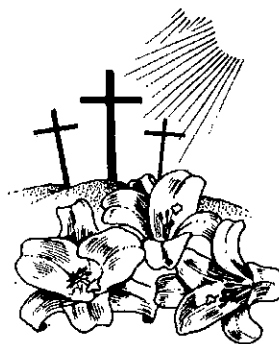
March 26, April 2, 9, and 16: potluck at 6:30 and at 7:15 pm Peter Sagal documentaries, *Constitution USA*. Peter Sagal, host of NPR's "Wait Wait Don't Tell Me!" travels across the country to find out where the U.S. Constitution lives, how it works and how it doesn't, how it unites us as a nation, and how it has nearly torn us apart.

### **Personal Care Kits for Kids in Foster Care—April Schedule**

**April 2-6: toothbrushes**

**April 9-13: bar soap**

**April 13: (Palm Sunday) Assemble kits at 9 am**



*Pastor's Notes continued from page 1*

Come for any of the Wednesday night's potlucks and showings of Peter Sagal's *Constitution USA*. There are four, each self-contained, so it's OK if you miss one – April 2, 9, 16. Potluck at 6:30, program at 7:15 pm in the lounge.

Participate in the noontime Lenten lunches and devotions in area churches – the offering goes to the White Lake Food Pantry at Lebanon and the Free Store at the White Lake Methodist Church (Montague). See the schedule in this newsletter.

Thank the many leaders who will lead worship April 6 & 13 while I am in Ohio for mom's knee surgery. I'll be back for Easter. Pray for Earl, baptized on March 23, and Elara on April 20. Pray for peace that is not a stalemate imposed but a justice created.

"All I have is a voice" – W H Auden said. And that is enough.

**A message from Thrivent:**

*Have you heard of the "horizontal wealth transfer" and what it may mean for you?*

The "horizontal wealth transfer" describes how wealth often moves from one spouse to another, usually from husband to wife, before it's passed on to the next generation. With longer life expectancies, women are increasingly outliving their husbands and inheriting a significant portion of their combined assets. This means women often manage these assets for a considerable time, highlighting a wonderful opportunity for them to take control of their financial futures. This trend underscores the importance of women actively engaging in financial planning and ensuring their long-term financial security and well-being. If that thought scares you a bit, you don't have to learn and grow in this alone! Roots & Wings is here to help women lean into their legacies through straightforward, simple videos and resources that can equip you with confidence, knowledge, and a supportive community as you learn.

If you have further questions or want to get ahold of your local Thrivent financial advisor: call Marci Bentz at the office at 231-894-8886 or text, her at 231-760-8246.

**Wanted—Live-In Caretaker**  
Michillinda Beach Association  
Scenic Drive, Whitehall

Rent-free home + \$20,000 minimum salary

Duties include watching over and maintaining property

If interested contact Don Huntington, (513) 520-1991 or [dehuntingtoniii@gmail.com](mailto:dehuntingtoniii@gmail.com) for more info.

**Lenten Luncheons in April**

April 2 at White Lake United Methodist Church in Montague with White Lake UCC pastor Donna Morton as guest speaker; and April 9 at Ferry Church on Old Channel Trail, with White Lake UMC pastor Tim Dibble as guest speaker.



## 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](mailto:office@lebanonlutheranchurch.com)  
(best)