

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

www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com

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(ELCA)**

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

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

June 2025

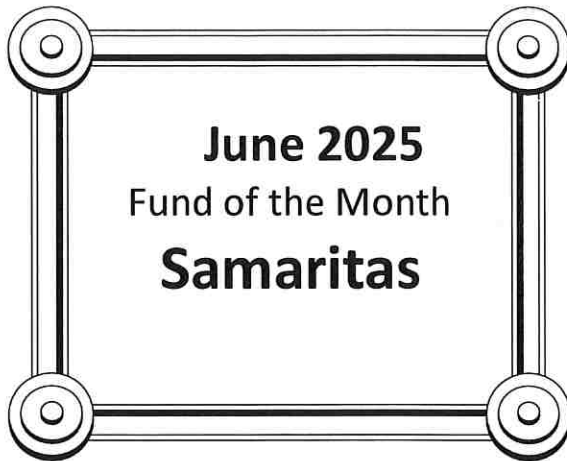
Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, has issued a pastoral message on the death of Pope Francis. "On this Easter Monday, we of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America join with people around the world in heartfelt grief at the death of Pope Francis, and we celebrate his life eternal in Jesus Christ," the statement read, in part.:

"Pope Francis served Christ's church with wisdom, courage and humility," Eaton continued. "Throughout his pastoral ministry, he served as an instrument of God's justice and peace for all people and the whole of creation. His commitment to the poorest people, in his native Buenos Aires and around the world, was ever present, even in his simple living.

"Pope Francis will go down in history as the first Jesuit bishop of Rome and the first from the Americas. His papacy will be remembered for his clarion call to action for climate justice, his bold engagement in ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, his compassionate approach to several complex social issues, and his clear concern about the rise of right-wing populism worldwide and its impact on the most vulnerable.

"In particular, we will remember Pope Francis for his significant contributions to the dialogue of life between Lutherans and Catholics, advancing the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. We will recall with amazement his participation alongside the Lutheran World Federation in a joint ecumenical commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on Oct. 31, 2016. I will never forget witnessing the procession of the pope and the general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation down the aisle in red stoles during the prayer service that day. We give thanks to God for this witness to our visible unity in Christ.

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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
Wednesday, August 13, 2025

More details soon!



Bishop's Newsletter—May 2025 *Planning Ahead*

I'm going to Walt Disney World in late August. A curious few have asked how this trip fits into the start of the bishop's term on September 1 and, as I explained to them, the trip will either be a brief retreat from my work as bishop and I will return refreshed for a new term or I will go visit Mickey Mouse, have some fun, and return to Michigan ready for new opportunities. Either way, I am planning ahead.

As my family always does, we have been planning our trip to Walt Disney World for months. If we don't attend to the details, we might find ourselves standing on Main Street USA sharing a turkey leg for supper or locked out of the Magic Kingdom because the park reached capacity before we arrived. We know people who have had both experiences. And we have witnessed fellow guests heaping their frustration and blame on cast members when, in reality, it was the guests' fault for not doing their homework and planning ahead.

While I would never call Synod Assembly "The Most Magical Place on Earth," Synod Assembly is similar to Walt Disney World in that it requires a great deal of planning. Some of us have been planning for this assembly since June 2023 and plans are already underway for the 2026 Synod Assembly.

Like guests at Walt Disney World, voting members and visitors have their own planning to do. This includes deciding where they are going to have dinner on Sunday, reading the "Assembly Book," printing out worship resources, being aware of the schedule, and praying. When we don't do our homework and plan ahead, it is inappropriate to heap our frustration and blame on those staffing Synod Assembly when our frustration is our own fault. This special newsletter is intended to help us prepare, though the contents are not exhaustive.

As I prepare for Synod Assembly, it is important to me to share three things with you. First, I will not be preaching at this assembly because our friends at Churchwide determined that it might give me an unfair advantage in the bishop election. Preaching the Word and administering the Sacraments in our synod is one of the greatest parts of my call and I am therefore disappointed that I will not be preaching. However, I respect our friends at Churchwide and I will honor the process. As I will not be preaching, I am excited and grateful that two of my colleagues, Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Bishop Tim Graham, will be preaching and I hope you will make time to attend these worship services.

Second, visitors need to sit in the visitor section and not with voting members. I know this is disappointing because we would all prefer to sit with our friends. This requirement again comes from our friends at Churchwide. And while we are disappointed, having voting members and visitors in separate sections helps our general elections and bishop election committees efficiently do their work. So we will honor the process and invite those looking to connect with friends to take advantage of the worship services, meals, and workshops as voting members and visitors will be able to sit together during those times.

Third, I am so very grateful for our synod staff. I honor them, respect them, am inspired by them, and have fun working with them. I cherish these relationships and want to ensure they are not forgotten in the busyness of Synod Assembly. If we seem a little anxious this assembly, it might be because we know each of us may need to plan for what we will be doing beginning September 1. So I ask you to pray especially for Ann, Rebecca, Chelsey, Kjersten, and Chrisy. As Dr. Taylor so eloquently shared in his reflection on our assembly theme, our work is to build each other up. And while some use "the synod" to mean "the bishop," it's important we understand "the synod" is bigger than one person and that bishop elections affect more than one person.

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Bishops News (Continued from page 3)

As you prepare for Synod Assembly, I invite you to read Dr. Taylor's reflection (available in Section A of the Assembly Book) and consider how you can build up those participating in the assembly and care for the synod staff who work so hard to build our synod up.

Finally, don't forget to download the scavenger hunt app! Perhaps you will be one of the few to get a selfie with Craig and Mickey. See you at assembly!

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



Swim Lessons

We are offering Swim Lessons for 2025!

July 7-10 and July 14-17

Cost: \$65 per child

**Pool Location: 1230 Schuler /
North Muskegon 49445**

Ages 3-5 - 1:30pm - 2pm

Ages 6-8 - 2pm - 2:30pm

Ages 9-12 - 2:30 - 3pm

Muskegon YMCA Certified swim instructors will be conducting the lessons.

Register online at: www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com or pick up a form near the church office.

Call Lebanon Lutheran Church - 893-5745

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, 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

Lois Szczerbinski, at Robinswood Assisted Living, 2650 Ruddiman, N. Muskegon 49445

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.

Brian Holmblade, with heart issues

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

Sarah Schmalz, recuperating from surgery

Wendy Shalifoe, starting chemotherapy for re-occurring cancer

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, June 1—Easter 7
Worship - 10:15am

Color: White

Readings

Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

Today we pray for:
Marsha & Chuck Hulce

Prayer of the Day

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, June 8—Pentecost
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Red

Today we pray for:
Charles & Sally Jackson

Readings

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17 [25-27]

Prayer of the Day

God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, June 15 — The Holy Trinity
Worship - 10:15am

Color: White

Readings

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

Today we pray for:
Valerie Johnson

Prayer of the Day

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, June 22 — Pentecost 2
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Green

Readings

Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 141
Acts 13:13-26
Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]

Today we pray for:
Kristine Jordahl

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, by your gracious providence your servant John the Baptist was born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Grant to your people the wisdom to see your purpose and the openness to hear your will, that the light of Christ may increase in us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday June 29 — Pentecost 3
Worship — 10:15 AM

Color: Green

Readings

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21
Psalm 16 (8)
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

Today we pray for:
Terry and Lauralee Kestleloot

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

June



6/4 Megan Crouch	6/23 Christopher Lathrop
6/6 Brianna Clark	6/23 Thomas Swiatek
6/7 Brianne Roesler	6/26 Lois Szczerbinski
6/10 Ian Palmer	6/28 Sally Hollister Jackson
6/11 Katherine Keller	6/28 Jim King
6/11 Ken Kolb	6/29 Alaina Moreau Leo
6/12 Wayne Roesler	
6/14 Mary Ellen Larson	
6/15 Gina Holmblade Jenkins	
6/16 Virginia DeMumbrum	
6/16 Danielle Jacobs	
6/21 Jenny Lynn Girvan	
6/22 William Hildebrandt	



6/1/68 Wayne & Sue Roesler
 6/6/15 Charles & Debbie Peabody
 6/8/68 John & Irene Parks
 6/16/73 Dan & Jenny Lynn Girvan
 6/20/92 Steve & Cindy Albert
 6/21/24 Stephen & Ariel Ogden
 6/22/74 Doug & Barb Aardema
 6/25/83 Doug & Monica Ogden
 6/28/69 Ernie & Donna Stacy
 6/29/85 Scott & Elaine Stevens

Baptism Anniversaries



6/1 Eric Nessa	6/17 Nicholas Will	6/27 Ann Bloom
6/1 John Lundell	6/17 Daniel Civis	6/28 Lorey Montgomery
6/6 Doug Ogden	6/19 Catherine Shalifoe	
6/6 Steve Green	6/19 Robin Civis	
6/10 Frank Hollister	6/21 Jon Honoré	
6/13 Rob Wahr	6/22 Thomas Civis	
6/14 Sharon Ackerman	6/23 Andreas Holmblade	
6/14 Mallory Crouch	6/26 Megan Aardema Ahren-	
6/15 Darrin Roesler	holz	

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.

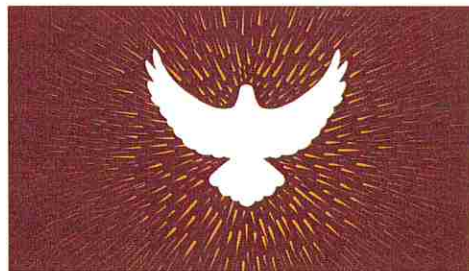
A message from Thrivent:

Summer's here! As the days lengthen and the pace (hopefully!) slows a bit, I encourage you to consider a different kind of investment this season – one that yields dividends far beyond dollars and cents. I'm talking about nurturing your faith, strengthening family bonds, and yes, thoughtfully reviewing your finances.

Nurture your faith through reflection and connection. Strengthen family bonds by creating lasting memories with dedicated time together. Celebrate Dad and his legacy with intention and togetherness. And while enjoying the season, take a fresh look at your financial well-being. Review your budget, savings, and investments to ensure they align with your goals. (And contact me with your questions!)

Faith provides foundational guidance, family fuels your purpose, and sound finances offer security. These areas are interconnected, influencing your values and decisions. As you plan your summer, make space for spiritual growth, family connection, and thoughtful financial review. The peace, connection, and security you gain will be invaluable. Enjoy a fulfilling summer!

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.



We celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, June 8

There will be a special congregational meeting held after worship to hear about and vote on a plan to replace the flat roof, followed by a Council-sponsored ice cream celebration of Pentecost

Please plan on attending!

Pastor's Note (continued from page 1)

"We pray that God will strengthen the people of the Roman Catholic Church with the promise of Christ's resurrection. We extend our condolences to all our Catholic siblings, including the bishops, priests, deacons, scholars and laypeople with whom we are in dialogue and partnership. We also pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the deliberations of the College of Cardinals as they begin the process of selecting a new pope."

We also pray for The Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas who was elected to serve as the next bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. She succeeds Bishop Craig Alan Satterlee, who has served faithfully for the past 12 years. Bishop-Elect Schneider-Thomas' term begins September 1.

About the new bishop: "The Rev. Julie E. Schneider-Thomas, Kent City, Mich., was elected May 20 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the synod assembly, May 18-20 at the Comfort Inn & Suites and Conference Center in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Schneider-Thomas was elected on the fifth ballot, with 166 votes. The Rev. Dana Hendershot, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mount Pleasant, Mich., received 73 votes.

The bishop-elect has served as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Comstock Park, Mich., since 1996. She also has been serving Hope Lutheran Church in Rockford, Mich., since 2016.

Schneider-Thomas earned a Bachelor of Arts in religion and philosophy from Adrian College in Adrian, Mich., in 1991, and a Master of Divinity from Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, in 1995. Trinity is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

She will take office Sept. 1. Installation details are pending.

The Rev. Craig Satterlee has served as bishop since 2013."

Pastor Ogden



Living in God's Amazing Grace

Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 South Mears Avenue
Whitehall, MI 49461

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)

