

**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)**

**Instagram—Twitter : #llesignsofgrace**

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

# THE LIGHT



## Pastor's Notes

**May 2025**

Lebanon's summer ministries are well into the planning stages and ready to go!

Swim lessons are July 7-10 and 14-17 (8 sessions for ages 3-5, 6-8, 9-12) at the Crouch pool.

Back to school backpacks and water bottles have already been delivered. The event will be sometime around Aug 13-15.

Our Cub Scouts just had their first camping trip in April, and a *Join Scouting Night* at Shoreline the same week. Summer Camp for Cubs is July 16, for the Troop July 7. Scouts are still collecting pop cans the second Sunday of each month. Bring yours in Sunday morning if you like.

No word yet on a seminarian from Bratislava. It is not a good year for international students, as you have seen on the news. We shall see sometime in late May or June.

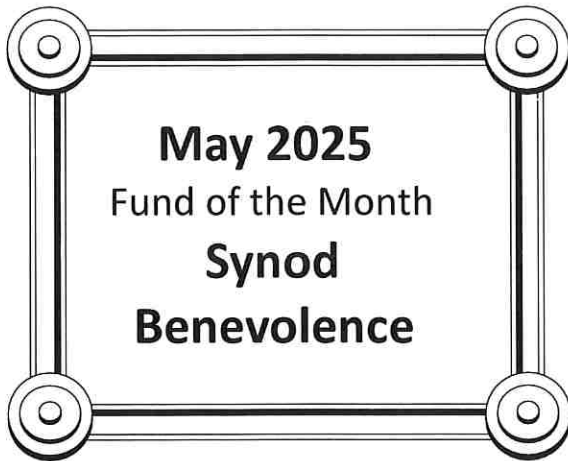
We said goodbye to some good friends this spring: Mitch Johnson (Lisa Clark's dad); Jenna's dad Darrel; Elin Frietsch; and in June we will hold a funeral for a member of the Funnel family, who belonged to Lebanon in the seventies before moving out west.

Four high school graduates -- Anna and Lizzy Frietsch; Emma-Kaye Dusenberry; Patrick Cole (our Scoutmaster Luke's son). Lebanon hosts Whitehall High School's baccalaureate on May 18. Lizzy and Patrick have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, Anna is completing hers now, and so Courts of Honor will follow.

The Assembly of the North/west Lower Michigan Synod ("mitten synod" for short) runs May 18-20. Kara and Frank will be there for us. I will join them right after baccalaureate. The highlight will be the election of Bishop.

Plans for the Food Pantry/Scout House facility were approved by the City, but have been severely slowed by the current tariffs on lumber and steel, and the probable elimination of a grant we were hoping for. We are looking for a few new sources of support now.

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**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—April 2025    Resurrection and New Life**

"We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come." We confess these words in the Nicene Creed. They remind us that, as people who endeavor to trust the gospel and follow Jesus, expecting resurrection and new life is our stance in the world. In this season of division, when people don't seem to be able to agree on anything, unless they agree on everything, we do well to remain vigilant for signs of resurrection, new life, unity, and hope, especially as we pass from Holy Week to Easter. Paul's words strike me as most relevant: "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8).

As I remain vigilant for signs of resurrection and new life, I yearn for signs of unity. They are hard to come by and they show up in unexpected places. So it happened that, a few weeks ago, I was moved emotionally by presentations that I expected would be dry, technical, and academic. I experienced unity and new life in, of all things, the ecumenical dialogue between the ELCA and the Orthodox churches.

**Lutheran-Orthodox Dialogue** This Easter, I count as a special grace that Eastern and Western Christians—the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant churches—will all celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on April 20. Most years, Eastern and Western Christians celebrate Easter on different days primarily because they use different calendars (Julian and Gregorian) to calculate the date of Easter, leading to a 13-day difference in the calendar and a divided witness to the world. [1] This year, however, all of Christianity celebrates Christ's Resurrection on the same day—a sign of unity that might yield new life!

I also count as a special grace that, in this year of the 1700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople in 325 CE, Lutheran and Orthodox churches issued a statement expressing their shared understanding of the Holy Trinity.[2] Another sign of unity.

For centuries, the Eastern and Western churches have been divided over the "Filioque" (Latin for "and the Son"), a phrase in the third article of the Nicene Creed. The Latin church added this phrase to the Nicene Creed in 1014 CE, so that, in the West, the Nicene Creed states that the Holy Spirit "proceeds from the Father and the Son." This doctrine about the Trinity has been a major point of contention between the Eastern and Western churches.

Rather than moving quickly to our differences, the Lutheran-Orthodox dialogue intentionally honors the unity we share. "A Lutheran-Orthodox Common Statement on Faith in the Holy Trinity" recognizes that both the ELCA and the Orthodox Church believe in and worship the Holy Trinity by confessing our faith in the Trinity in the words of the Nicene Creed and encountering each of the persons of the Holy Trinity in their distinction from one another and their unity with each other as the one God. It might be fun this Easter season to consider how we experience God – Creator, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit – in our worship.

the Father and the Son [Filioque]." Moreover, many of the chief teachers of the Lutheran tradition, including Luther himself, vigorously taught this understanding of the Trinity; Lutheran theologians have traditionally defended both the addition of the phrase "and the Son" and the truth of the teaching embodied by this addition. Orthodox Christians have traditionally opposed both the addition of the Filioque clause to the Creed and the teaching that the Spirit proceeds from the Son. I found myself reminded that working to genuinely understand the differences that divide is a sign of unity, resurrection, and new life.

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After celebrating what unites, the statement turns to the historical and theological issues surrounding the "Filioque," the one point in the Creed on which Lutheran and Orthodox Christians have traditionally disagreed with in regard to faith in the Holy Trinity. First, the statement demonstrates a united understanding of the differences. Lutherans, together with other churches rooted in Latin-speaking Christianity, have traditionally confessed the creedal faith in the Holy Trinity by saying that the Holy Spirit "proceeds from the Father and the Son [Filioque]." Moreover, many of the chief teachers of the Lutheran tradition, including Luther himself, vigorously taught this understanding of the Trinity; Lutheran theologians have traditionally defended both the addition of the phrase "and the Son" and the truth of the teaching embodied by this addition. Orthodox Christians have traditionally opposed both the addition of the Filioque clause to the Creed and the teaching that the Spirit proceeds from the Son. I found myself reminded that working to genuinely understand the differences that divide is a sign of unity, resurrection, and new life.

Then we arrive at some common ground. The 2024 Lutheran – Orthodox Joint Statement on the Filioque, issued by the international dialogue,[3] acknowledges that Lutherans, together with many other Western Christians, now widely recognize that the addition of the Filioque ("proceeds from the Father and the Son") to the Nicene Creed, which took place locally by a unilateral action of the Latin Church and without the action of an Ecumenical Council, was illegitimate and contributed to disunity among Christians. Moreover, many Lutherans are now convinced that the original Creed without the Filioque addition could and should be restored in their worship.

This conviction need not contradict the Lutheran Confessions, which commit Lutherans to "the decree of the Council of Nicaea." Article I of the Augsburg Confession commits Lutherans to the decree—the text—of Nicaea, which does not include the Filioque. The decree simply says that the Holy Spirit is "the one proceeding from the Father," consistent with John 15:26. On this basis, Lutherans can now acknowledge that the Filioque is not ecumenical dogma, but has the status of a local tradition that is not binding on the universal church.

Orthodox Christians may accept the teaching of the "double procession" of the Spirit from the Father and the Son in the patristic sense that the Spirit is sent from the Father through/and the Son in the mystery of our salvation in Christ. The relation of the Son to the Spirit in the context of salvation is not the same as the relation of the Son to the Spirit in the eternal Trinity, where the Spirit proceeds from the Father. Thus for Orthodox Christians, the dispute over the Filioque can be narrowed down to accepting or rejecting the distinction between how the Trinity as eternally in themselves and how they appear in Christ. In terms of the Trinity Godself, both the Son and the Spirit proceed from the Father. In terms of entering the world for the work of salvation, the Spirit proceeds from the Father through/and the Son.

As I listened to the Lutheran – Orthodox presentation, tried to wrap my mind around it, I felt my body relax, and I wiped away some tears. The Nicene Creed and the Council of Nicaea bring me joy that many people cannot comprehend. Bishops have a special responsibility to care for the apostolic faith and the unity of the Church, which the Nicene Creed has represented for 1700 years. I sometimes get choked up in worship when an assembly says the creed or sings "The Church's One Foundation" so passionately that I can hear the words. Saint Ambrose (d. 397 CE), the fourth century bishop of Milan (the subject of my dissertation and my patron saint), is known for his strong defense of the Nicene Creed and the faith it represents against Arianism, a heresy declaring that Christ is not truly divine but a created being and therefore not entitled to the honor and worship owed to God. Thus, with Luther and many others, I insist that the church and its preachers proclaim Christ as Savior before we make Jesus, a teacher, example, or role model.

*Continued on page 10*

## 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

### 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

**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.

**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, May 4 — Easter 3**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: White**

### Readings

**Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]**  
**Psalm 30**  
**Revelation 5:11-14**  
**John 21:1-19**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Frank & Alice Hollister**

### Prayer of the Day

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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, May 11—Easter 4**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: White**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Brian & Juanita Holmblade**

### Readings

**Acts 9:36-43**  
**Psalm 23**  
**Revelation 7:9-17**  
**John 10:22-30**

### Prayer of the Day

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sunday, May 18 — Easter 5**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: White**

**Readings**

**Acts 11:1-18**  
**Psalm 148**  
**Revelation 21:1-6**  
**John 13:31-35**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Marlene Holmstrom**

**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, May 25—Easter 6**  
**Worship - 10:15 am**

**Color: White**

**Readings**

**Acts 16:9-15**  
**Psalm 67**  
**Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5**  
**John 14:23-29**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Brian Hosticka**

**Prayer of the Day**

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



# May



5/1 Darrel Otto  
 5/1 Adrienne Clahassey  
 5/2 Eric Nelson  
 5/3 Monica Ogden  
 5/4 Jeremy Bernhardt  
 5/6 Ann Bloom  
 5/6 Lauren Nelson  
 5/7 Arin (Snell) Bowen  
 5/9 Kathleen Wiethoff  
 5/10 Lauralee Kesteloot  
 5/10 Katie Shalifoe  
 5/11 Vicki Hinks  
 5/12 Mary Wendell  
 5/14 Don Nelson  
 5/16 Megan Ahrenholz

5/16 Andrew Hildebrandt  
 5/16 Barb Smith  
 5/17 Eric Nessa  
 5/18 Renae Silk  
 5/20 Dan Girvan  
 5/21 Mitchell Clark  
 5/21 Minnie Estlund  
 5/21 Juanita Holmblade  
 5/22 Phyllis Monte  
 5/25 Thomas Hildebrandt  
 5/28 Elaine Liska  
 5/30 Art Plewka  
 5/31 Elaine Stevens



5/6/78 John & Becky Wahr  
 5/13/00 Tom & Lea Palmer  
 5/22/93 Eric & Stephanie Hein  
 5/28/95 Wietse & Melanie Schaafsma  
 5/30/87 Scott & Katherine Keller



## Baptism Anniversaries



5/1 Elaine Skinner	5/9 Bob Palmer	5/22 Nancy Dahl
5/1 Jenna Brown	5/11 Todd Lamiman	5/29 Lisa Clark
5/2 Allie Ogden	5/12 Jay Otto	5/30 Dean Roesler
5/4 Wendy Shalifoe	5/13 Brad Carlson	5/31 Shawn Erwin
5/6 Ray Lathrop	5/15 Matthew Parman	5/31 Taylor Hughes
5/6 Sarah Lathrop	5/16 Donna Knoth	
5/6 Bernice Schuitema	5/18 Savanhni Chittisane	
5/7 Zoe Fretty	5/19 Dakota King	
5/7 Krysten Hosticka	5/19 Jim King	

**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:** *Women are pros at wearing many hats – mom, caregiver, you name it!*

So, when retirement or empty nesting rolls around, it's understandable to wonder, 'Okay, now what?' It's a big life change for everyone, and figuring out what makes you tick is a personal journey. But by acknowledging the potential 'what now?' moments and being intentional about renewing a sense purpose, these transitions can become some of the most rewarding times in life. Our partner non-profit organization, Roots & Wings, helps women lean into their legacies. And they've got amazing videos and resources for these types of transitions. Check them out at [www.rootsandwingslegacy.org/purpose](http://www.rootsandwingslegacy.org/purpose)

Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful Mothers out there!

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.

*Bishops News (Continued from page 4)*

Finally, I like to dabble in contemplating the Holy Spirit; check out Chapter 2 in *My Burden is Light*. All this is to say that the Lutheran and Orthodox churches coming together in a renewed, common understanding of the faith of Nicaea brings me joy, hope, and strength in these divided times. This is for me a sign of resurrection and new life. Where Are You Looking? "We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come."

#### **Where are you looking?**

Creeds, councils, and ecumenical dialogues aren't for everyone. So where are you looking for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come? What sign of resurrection and new life speaks to your heart and brings you joy, hope, and strength in these times?

Some experience these signs in nature in ways that, because of my visual limitations, I cannot completely comprehend. Some experience these signs in art. Someone recently told me about driving by their now-closed congregation. I heard in their voice both love and grief as they shared that it was good to see a full parking lot and know that, inside the building, people are gaining reading, language, and math skills that will change the trajectory of their lives. Resurrection. New life. The signs may be hard to find. And they may show up unexpectedly when we remember our stance in the world.

"We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come." Remain vigilant until you find resurrection and new life. Then share what you discover or encounter or experience. People need resurrection these days. If you share it with joy, strength, and hope, they will appreciate even ecumenical relationships and Trinitarian theology. Don't worry if finding a sign of resurrection doesn't happen quickly.

Beginning Sunday, we have seven weeks to celebrate Easter. We published the April newsletter on Tuesday of Holy Week. I am praying for the people of our synod this week, especially those who plan and lead worship, that you experience Jesus and the salvation Christ brings in personal and meaningful ways.

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

*Pastor's Note (continued from page 1)*

Thursday, May 15 the White Lake Historical Society meets at Lebanon, and we are the subject! They heard me mention how interesting the 1877 Grade 1 lumber is, especially in the bell tower, where it has remained untreated all these years. You can see the structure of the inside really well, so I will try to get some good pictures to show them on the new lounge TV.

Church history is typically told as "who was the Pastor, and what got built". But the real history is the lives that were touched, the friendships made, the Jesus who was met, the people moved to better their community, all because faith led them to. They will hear about this too.

Which leads me to say mom did great on her knee replacement. Thank you for your prayers, your concerns, for the time away to be with her, and your taking care of all the ministries, and one another. That is the spirit of Jesus among us, truly a story worth telling.

*Pastor Ogden*

**White Lake Chorale**  
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**CHORALE**

WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL  
VIKING CENTER  
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**SUNDAY, MAY 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:00 PM**

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Free tickets are available from Chorale members and at the Book Nook and Java Shop, White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, Arts Council of White Lake



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

