

**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
Financial Secretary: Curt Crouch

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

www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com

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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

September 2025



August 13, 2025
President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President and esteemed leaders of the U.S. Senate
and House of Representatives,

As presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America (ELCA), a denomination of 2.7 million members, I
write with profound horror regarding the catastrophe in Gaza
and the wider crisis in the Holy Land. I also write to you as a
Christian whose messiah preached, "Blessed are the
peacemakers, for they will be called children of
God" (Matthew 5:9). I urge you to act swiftly and decisively
to stop the Israeli government from continuing its war in
Gaza. The lives of 2.1 million Palestinians in Gaza depend in
part on the decisions you will make in the coming weeks and
months.

The current famine and starvation campaign in Gaza,
engineered by the government of Israel, should shock the
moral conscience of our nation. The people starving in Gaza
are teachers, auto mechanics, doctors, store owners,
engineers, farmers, students, mothers, fathers, sons,
daughters, aunts, uncles, grandparents and grandchildren. In
the 22 months since this devastating conflict began, at least
60,000 people in Gaza have been killed, including 18,500
children. UNICEF now calls Gaza the most dangerous place
in the world to be a child and estimates that one child has died
there for each hour since the war began. The global
community determined decades ago that using starvation as a
tool of war is a war crime under the Geneva Convention, per
Additional Protocol I, Article 54(1).

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The close relationship between the United States government and the government of Israel should be used to end the genocide in Gaza. This includes leveraging the financial, military and diplomatic support provided to Israel by the U.S. government.

For 22 months, the situation in the Holy Land has escalated with no apparent solution. We witnessed the horrific acts committed by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023, against Israeli citizens. The ELCA has been clear in supporting our Jewish-American and Israeli siblings who have suffered because of the Oct. 7 attacks, which directly contravene international law, not to mention human decency and morality. This church has condemned those attacks and prays for all who still suffer, including both the hostages taken by Hamas and those hostages' families.

This church has also lamented and denounced the subsequent military campaign by the Israeli government in Gaza. Collective punishment and forced displacement of an entire civilian population are also war crimes, as stipulated under the Fourth Geneva Convention, Articles 33 and 49.

The ELCA joins the growing condemnation of the continuing catastrophe of violence, starvation and forced displacement in Gaza, which many international voices are now calling genocide.

During the ELCA Churchwide Assembly last month, members spoke passionately about the situation in Gaza. I was struck by one voting member who, supporting a resolution on this issue, stated, "I acknowledge that the language in [the memorial] is sharp-edged and confrontational. Genocide should be as hard a word to say as it is to hear." Our church acknowledges that there is nothing easy about determining either the specifics of a mass atrocity event or when such an event legally constitutes genocide. However, evidence provided by credible sources over the course of this year — including the words of our own Christian siblings in the Holy Land and of Israeli human rights organizations and scholars — makes it impossible for us to keep silent in this critical hour.

As of this writing, the Israeli security cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Netanyahu, has approved a plan to take control of Gaza City. This includes expanding military operations in the Gaza Strip and forcibly expelling some 700,000 Palestinians currently surviving in the ruins of the city. It would additionally cut off 300,000 Palestinians in North Gaza from any aid access at all. This would mean putting in harm's way almost half of Gaza's population, many of whom are too malnourished, sick, or exhausted to flee the area. Such a forced displacement would undoubtedly lead to the deaths of many Palestinian men, women and children. Among these survivors are 600 of our Christian siblings and the staff at one of the few hospitals still functioning there: the Al-Ahli Hospital, run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

For the love of God, the sake of our shared humanity and the future of our Palestinian siblings of all faiths, your swift action may be the best and perhaps only way to stop the Israeli government from continuing its war and genocide in Gaza, and to plant seeds of peace and well-being for all in the Holy Land.

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Prayer Concerns

It is an important part of our ministry to be praying constantly for one another. Please add names to the prayer list with consent in order to maintain privacy and confidentiality. 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

Jane Blyth, 28801 Jefferson Ave., Apt. 332; Saint Clair Shores, MI 48081

Chris Claus, American House - 17383 174th Avenue, Spring Lake, MI 49456

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 recovering from cancer

Lucas Carlson, (Terry and Mary Beekman's grandson) for new treatment.

Sheila Fretty, re-occurring cancer and health concerns

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

Brian Holmblade, with heart issues

Mary Lewallen, recovering from spinal surgery

Deb Lothschutz (Mallory Lothschutz' mother-on-law) with health concerns

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

Martha Ogden, with health concerns

Wendy Shalifoe, recuperating from surgery for re-occurring cancer

Bev Statz, with health concerns

Stella Strong, (5-year-old friend of Donna and Ernie Stacy) in remission after battling cancer for 3 years

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.

Sunday, September 21, Pentecost 15
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Today we pray for:
Elaine Liska

Readings

Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Prayer of the Day

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday, September 28 —Pentecost 16
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Green

Today we pray for:
Mallory & Keith Lothschutz

Readings

Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Baptism Anniversaries



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

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.



Frank and Alice Hollister have again invited us to a church potluck picnic at The Water's Edge, 6195 Murray Road, next to White Lake and the White River Light Station beach.

Sunday, September 7, at 2:00 PM

Bring a dish to pass, a lawn chair, and your own table service. The Mahoney's are bringing ice cream. You may also want to bring your suit and towel for swimming or boating.

Thrivent Church Newsletter for September

Happy National Life Insurance Awareness Month! While it may not be the most glamorous topic (and likely something you didn't know you'd be celebrating this month), life insurance is a cornerstone of a sound financial plan, providing a safety net that ensures your family can navigate life's unexpected challenges without added financial stress. Whether it's covering a mortgage, funding a child's education, or simply maintaining their current lifestyle, a life insurance policy offers peace of mind. I encourage you to use this month as a reminder to review your coverage and ensure it aligns with your current needs and long-term goals. As always, I'm here to help!

If you'd like to speak with your local Thrivent agent about new or existing policies, please feel free to call Marci Bentz at the Office at 231-894-886 or text her at 231-760-8246.