

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

**Facebook: Lebanon Lutheran  
Church (ELCA)  
Instagram—Twitter :  
#lcsignsofgrace**

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

# THE LIGHT



**Pastor's Notes**

**August 2025**

**August 13, 2025**

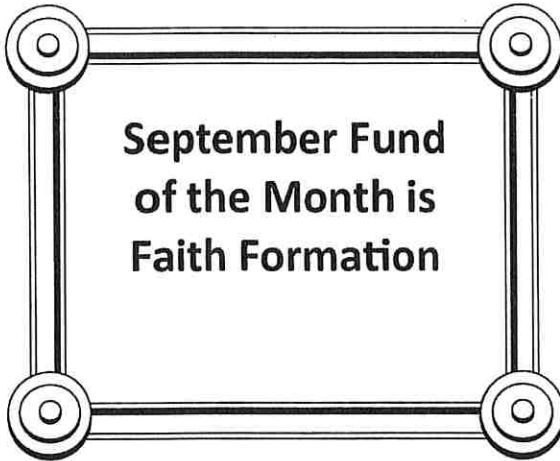
**President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20500**

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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**September Fund  
of the Month is  
Faith Formation**



**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.

**Installation of Bishop Elect  
Schneider-Thomas**

**The Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas will be installed as bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 4:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids (2700 Fulton Street E).**

**All are welcome to attend! Rostered ministers are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red.**

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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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Therefore, I urge that you take all necessary steps to:

- 1) Suspend all financial and military assistance from the United States to the Israeli state until it meets two critical conditions: agreeing to a permanent ceasefire and allowing, without restriction or hindrance, humanitarian aid to Gaza through credible, longstanding aid mechanisms such as the United Nations and its affiliated international nongovernmental organizations.
- 2) Initiate an investigation into whether U.S. military aid to Israel has been and is being used in compliance with U.S. and international human rights law.
- 3) Announce publicly that under no circumstances will the U.S. government endorse an Israeli policy that forcibly displaces Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank, including the Israeli government creating conditions on the ground that make Gaza and the West Bank fundamentally uninhabitable for Palestinians to live.
- 4) In line with U.S. allies, recognize Palestine as a sovereign state that can live in peace side by side with Israel, and support Palestine's full membership in the United Nations.
- 5) Redouble efforts and pressure on the Israeli government to ensure freedom of religion, worship and movement for people of all faiths, be they Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Druze or Baha'i.

Lutherans honor public service and pray for those in authority. We understand and teach that the work of government is an essential way in which Christians love God and serve their neighbor. I pray fervently that you will use the power of your offices — as you did recently, to negotiate a peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia — to ensure a safe future for all our siblings in the Holy Land.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

cc: The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable John Thune, Senate Majority Leader  
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Minority Leader  
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, House Minority Leader

## 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.



## Worship Notes

**Sunday, September 7—Pentecost 13**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: Green**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Phyllis Monte**

### Readings

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 1  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14:25-33

### Prayer of the Day

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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**Sunday, September 14 —Pentecost 14**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: Green**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Mary Lewallen**

### Readings

Exodus 32:7-14  
Psalm 51:1-10  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

### Prayer of the Day

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**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.

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**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.

# September



9/1 Lorey Montgomery	9/13 Zachery Bowen	9/24 Chris Soraruf
9/1 Megan Nelson Fretty	9/14 Alice Hollister	9/25 Peter Fretty
9/2 Richard Bernhardt	9/18 Mary Beekman	9/25 Helen Allshouse
9/3 Paula Moreau Williamson	9/18 Bob Palmer	9/26 Kerri Bernhardt
9/5 Heather Wiethoff	9/18 Sue Roesler	9/27 Nate Aardema
9/6 Melissa Berry	9/19 Dale Bouck	9/27 Linda Meier
9/6 Marlene Holmstrom	9/19 Cheri Crouch	9/28 Kim Nelson
9/6 Deb Statz Peabody	9/19 Shawn Irwin	9/28 Mark Will
9/7 Josh Keller	9/20 Robert Lathrop	9/29 Linda Everitt
9/8 Robin Civis	9/21 Chad Parks	9/29 Tom Foster
9/8 Darlene Willbrandt	9/22 Jason Roesler	9/29 Jeffrey Soraruf
9/10 Valerie Johnson	9/23 Jodi Emms	9/30 Jennifer Shalifoe
9/11 Brian Jaekel	9/23 Stephen Ogden	
9/12 Dennis Roesler II	9/24 Jeff Holmstrom	



9/2/90	Stephen & Suzanne Troy
9/4/93	Jay & Mardi Otto
9/5/14	Becky (Stacy) and Mike Chynoweth
9/8/18	Frank & Alice Hollister
9/9/77	Mike & Kay Snell
9/11/82	Rick & Holly Hughes
9/13/14	Carol and Terry Deneke
9/14/03	Terry & Mary Beekman
9/17/22	Jeffrey & Macy Hendrixon
9/19/92	Dwight & Michelle Roesler
9/22/90	Don & Amy Romain
9/23/72	Roger & JoAnne Silk
9/26/87	Jim and Flo King
9/26/92	Troy and Mary Gallihugh



## 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.”

### **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.*



The vocal choir is starting up Sunday September 14th after the 10:15 service. If you like to sing (yes, in the shower or car counts ) please consider giving us a try. There are no try outs, no fees, no requirements. After all, the psalmist says: " Make a joyful noise to the Lord". I hope to hear you in church.

*Diane Eastman, choir director*

After taking the summer off, I would like to restart the craft group. If there is enough interest, more than one group could be scheduled, one in the evening for those who work during the day and one during the day for those that fits better. Keep an eye on this space as I work this out for day and time. Thank you, Diane Eastman

#### **FALL GATHERING FOR WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

**WHO:** Women of the ELCA

**WHAT:** Fall Gathering **WHEN:** Friday September 26, 7:00 – 8:30 pm and Saturday September 27, 2025, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

**WHERE:** St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 1079 Riverside Drive, Battle Creek, MI

**STAY AT:** Courtyard Battle Creek, 12891 Harper Vil. Drive, 1-269-979-2900... Tell them you are with the WELCA group to get a reduced rate.

**REGISTER;** Call either Barbara Marquette at 269-963-4170 or 269-832-0276 Or St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 269-963-4170

You are cordially invited to join us at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Battle Creek for the Fall Gathering. Our outreach will be the Women's Co-op who have been in Battle Creek for 20 years, and are in need of kitchen items. At this fall gathering we are also having a quilt raffle to benefit the scholarship fund.

Next year is the Triennial in Des Moines and we want many ladies to be able to go! Hope to see you there!



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.