

**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

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

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

THE LIGHT

Pastor's Notes

October 2025



On Sunday, Oct 26 we will celebrate Reformation Sunday, commemorating Martin Luther and the beginning of reforms in the church of the Middle Ages. But we not only look back on a 500 year old event, but re-commit ourselves to the idea that we are always a church reforming ourselves for the world around us to enter into a better Way.

It is really hard to not get caught up in the choosing up of sides, but only slightly easier to stop ourselves from misrepresenting someone we disagree with.

Once I was leading a group where the sides were heated and passionate. I forget the topic, but the exercise was to state the other person's position so that they could say, "yes, that is what I believe." It took well over an hour. "Yeah but what you're really saying is . . ." Or, "That makes you a . . .". That's one reformation. Another is this:

The church at its best is always looking forward to the next challenge, to the next person we can introduce Christ to, even if that means changing the way we speak or worship of act so that others can really hear the grace around them. And we can discover the grace in them. That too is re-formation.

Sometimes people choose to wear red on Reformation Sunday, just as we do on Pentecost in the spring. It "bookends" the long green season of spiritual growth and reminds ourselves of the kind of spirit that has been given to us. Sometimes we live up to it, sometimes we fall short, but always we pick ourselves up and re-form.

Continued on page 3

**October Fund of
the Month is
Backpacks**

REFORMATION DAY
TEACHING WITHOUT FEAR

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.



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We are made right in God's eyes simply because God is gracious, and so is the other guy, something we would never know except when we step out believing that the story of Christ is true. This is my paraphrase of the Lutheran sixteenth century slogan: we are justified by grace through faith in Christ alone, apart from any works of our own.

The potluck on Oct 26 will be at Scholl's Farm, details on the pages inside.

Doug Ogden



Kids' Klub News

Hello families!

We hope your school year is off to a great start.

Kids Klub meets at Lebanon the 3rd Sunday of each month from **9:15-10:00**. We have a new curriculum this year, called *Holy Moly*, which will focus on lessons for pre-K through 3rd grade.

Our first lesson was "The Boy Teacher", from Luke 2:41-50.

We may periodically serve snacks, so please let us know about any food allergies!

It's going to be a great year - we're looking forward to some fun times learning and hanging out with each other.

Hope to see you there!

Ms. Amy and Ms. Toni



As I was wondering through our old apple orchard in Mackinaw City, this tree caught my attention (as a child I imagined that it had been planted by Johnny Appleseed himself). The bright red apples first caught my eye. This orchard is over 100 years old, and not all the trees still produce fruit; so, fruit on any tree is a welcome sight! The twisted trunk caught my eye next, and I stopped to pay attention to the miracle before me. The photo does not reveal that the trunk is actually hollowed out, but still the nutrients from the soil run up the remaining trunk and — voila! — apples, against the odds!

This beautiful, gnarly, fruitful tree set me to thinking about, well, just about all of us who put our hands to the tasks that Jesus asks of us. Some of us feel old and worn. Some of us feel young but frazzled. Some of us feel called but not perfect enough for the calling. Open your Bible and read about Moses, Mary, Noah, pretty much the whole lot of our flawed biblical ancestors. Here we stand among them. An orchard of the faithful, producing a harvest by the grace of God for the sake of the world. Thanks be to God!

+Bishop Julie

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
Lucas Carlson, (Terry and Mary Beekman's grandson) for new treatment.
Cheri Crouch, recuperating from surgical procedure
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
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, October 5—Pentecost 17
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Today we pray for: Frank & Rita Lundell

Readings

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Prayer of the Day

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday, October 12 —Pentecost 18
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Today we pray for: John & Mary Lundell

Readings

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday, October 19, Pentecost 19
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green
Today we pray for: Eric & Mary Odmark

Readings

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121 (2)
2 Timothy 3:14—4:5
Luke 18:1-8

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday, October 26—Reformation Sunday
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Red
Today we pray for: Allie Ogden

Readings

Jeremiah 14:7-10
Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8
16-18 Luke 18:9-14

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

October



10/3 August Frietsch
 10/3 Kristine Jordahl
 10/5 Milan Jurik
 10/5 Sue Otterman
 10/5 Jacob Troy
 10/6 Eric Rop
 10/6 Linda Schenten
 10/10 Curt Crouch
 10/10 Nora Gaiser
 10/12 Brian Holmblade
 10/12 Bruce Holmblade
 10/12 Andreas Holmblade
 10/12 Holly Moog
 10/17 Shirley Glass
 10/19 Carol Deneke
 10/19 Rob Montgomery
 10/20 Becky Wahr

10/21 Daniel Civis
 10/22 Oliver Wyatt
 10/23 Tom Fretty
 10/25 Meg Eaton
 10/25 Karent Hosticka Bruder
 10/25 Debbie Svensson
 10/27 Finn DeMumbrum
 10/27 Verne Sutherland
 10/29 Stephanie Honoré
 10/30 Anna Otterman
 10/31 Jonathon Bartlett



10/5/13 Keith & Mallory Lothschutz
 10/5/19 Don & Danielle Jacobs
 10/6/12 Corey and Rachael (Wahr) Bartlett
 10/7/95 Rocky & Linda Decker
 10/8/88 Lee & Debbie Swenson
 10/13/84 Don & Kim Nelson
 10/26/63 Bob & Sharon Ackerman
 10/27 Bill & Ruth Baxter

Baptism Anniversaries



10/3 Kristine Jordahl	10/29 Pete Fretty
10/4 Minnie Estlund	10/29 Megan Nelson
10/10 Charles Xavier Schmalz	10/30 Cheri Crouch
10/10 Townes Ernest Vandebunte	10/30 Sally Hollister Jackson
10/10 Violet Mae Stacy Chynoweth	
10/20 Frank Lundell	
10/20 Rachel Wahr Bartlett	
10/23 Lauralee Kesteloot	

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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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.



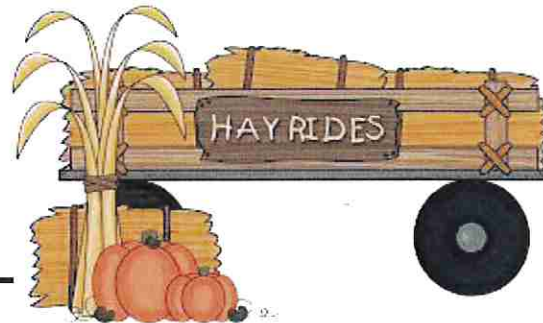
Mark Your Calendars for the Annual Hayride!

When: Sunday, October 26, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Where: Scholl Farms, 5955 Eilers Road, Montague

What to bring: a dish to pass, chairs, and dress for the weather



Living Lutheran Notice

If you are receiving the print edition of *Living Lutheran* and received a notice that this would be your last issue, do not worry. We are working on resolving this issue. The cost of the subscription is included in our annual budget.

If you do not wish to receive the print edition, please let Pastor Ogden or the church office know.

If you are interested in contributing to the cost, each subscription costs \$20.



If you or someone you know has experienced a miscarriage, stillbirth or the loss of a newborn, this care package is designed to offer comfort and healing. It includes an adult-sized blanket and the *Grieving the Child I Never Knew* devotional, originating from the personal journey of author Kathe Wunnenberg.

Go to: [Grief Care Resources](#) | Thrivent

Digital grief support

Empathy is a digital tool designed to guide you through the difficult experience of losing a loved one. This unique Thrivent Member Benefit offers tech-enabled assistance and human support to help you, or someone you care about, handle the practical, logistical and emotional challenges loss brings. From assistance with immediate arrangements, closing accounts to dealing with grief, Empathy can help ease the burden that loss brings. Go to thrivent.com/empathy

Thrivent Church Newsletter for October

Among many other celebrations, October is National Financial Planning Month. It's the perfect time to not only review your financial strategies, but also to embrace the power of proactive planning. Whether you're just starting your career, saving for a home, or looking ahead to retirement, taking the time this month to organize your financial life can make a profound difference. One easy step you can take is to review and categorize your monthly spending. This will help provide a clear picture of where your money is going now, so that you're more aware of where you may need some redirection. It's about more than just numbers; it's about building a roadmap to your future, ensuring that your goals are achievable, and that you feel confident and secure every step of the way. As always, I'm here to help you live and leave your legacy!

If you'd like to speak with me, call the office at 231-894-8886 or text me at 231-760-



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)

Enjoy Blessings of October

