

**December 21, 2025  
Advent 4**

**Welcome to long-time Lutherans, to Christians from every tradition, and to people new to the faith.**

**Welcome to you who have no church home, or who want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not know for sure what you believe.**

**Welcome to new visitors and old friends**

**Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status, marital status, ability and challenge.**

**We welcome your questions and your beliefs**

**Welcome to Lebanon  
All are welcome in this place**

**Readings for today : Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19,  
Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25.**

*Readings for next week: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews  
2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23. Try reading these ahead at  
home and see if you can find what holds them together.*

*We need a volunteer reader for Sundays.*

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*Did you know .....*  
.....that you can always watch recent worship services on our website,  
and find the Yellow Pages for each week there too?  
[www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com](http://www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com)

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**Worship on the Web & in person - Sundays at 10:15am**

**Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more updates when they occur.**

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## **Prayer Concerns and Announcements**

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

*Prayers for those who are homebound:*

*Our Minister*

**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, StoryPoint West, 3121 Lake Michigan Drive, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Marlene Holmstrom**, at home. 2643 Benston Road, Whitehall, 49461

**Ken & Sandy Kolb**, with health issues - 6755 W. Old Channel Trail; Montague 49437. Sandy is currently at: Optiva, 916 E. Lewis Street, Whitehall, MI 49461

**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

**Lois Szczerbinski**, Robbinswood Assisted Living, 2650 Ruddiman North Muskegon, MI 49445

### *Special Prayer Concerns:*

**Brianne Beekman**, (Terry & Mary Beekman's granddaughter) diagnosed with multiple brain tumors.

**Lucas Carlson**, (Terry and Mary Beekmans grandson) for new treatment.

**Sheila Fretty**, re-occurring cancer, and health concerns.

**Margaret Fountain**, (Mary Koenen's sister) multiple myeloma has relapsed. A new inpatient treatment at UM begins June 26. (prayers appreciated)

**Brian Holmblade**, with heart issues

**Mary Lewallen**, recovering from spinal surgery.

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

**Martha Ogden**, (Pastor Ogden's mother) health concerns

**Wendy Shalifoe**, recurring cancer & surgery recovery.

**Bev Statz**, with health concerns.

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

**Darlene Willbrandt**, in treatment for re-occurring pancreatic 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

**Each week we pray for one of our members or families. This week we pray for: Ruth Nurmi**

*Congregational prayers for December 2025: John & Chris Parman*

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**For our Synod Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas and her staff Alex Aivars, Scott Torkko, and Kate Van Valkenburg.**

**For our newly elected Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.**

**As Jesus calls us to be one** even as he and the Father are one, please remember these leaders, and judicatories in prayer on Sunday mornings.—  
**Today we pray for: Trinity Lutheran Church / Midland; Rev. Jeffrey Gramza.**

*Next week we pray for: Trinity Lutheran Church / Millersburg; Rev. Mary Hughes.*

**Hand sanitizer is located at several stations as well as masks  
Masks in the church building are optional**

**Adult Forum at 9:00 am. Coffee will be on!  
Please join us each Sunday!**



### **Last Week at Lebanon**

Budget.....	11,851.00
Non-Budget.....	2,112.00
In & Outs.....	0.00
Total Deposit.....	13,963.00
Fund of the Month - Dec - Music	95.00
2025 Budget	208,519.00
Budgeted giving through 12/14/25	<b>233,080.43</b>

**Thank you for all your contributions!**

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Food Pantry numbers for Dec. 17: 126 families & 278 individuals

**NOTE: PANTRY HOURS ARE 9:30 AM TO 10:30 AM**

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### **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!***

## **Take home - Prayer Ventures December 2025**

*These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.*

**21** Winter solstice On this shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, give thanks for the brilliant light of God's love.

**22** Remember in prayer those who serve our communities, often working hours that prevent them from participating in worship and holiday activities. Pray for those working in health care, law enforcement, retail sales, emergency response, the military, social services, the hospitality industry and other vocations that we have come to rely upon.

**23** Pray that our hearts and minds will be receptive when the work of the Spirit surprises us.

**24** Christmas Eve "Jesus' voice from lowly manger softly thus calls to us: 'You are safe from danger; come and see; from all that grieves you you are freed; all you need I will surely give you'" ("All My Heart Again Rejoices" ELW 273). Praise God for knowing what we yearn for most and responding with generous, tender mercy. Let your hearts overflow with thanksgiving.

**25** Christmas Day Oscar Romero, the martyred Roman Catholic bishop of San Salvador, wrote, "The more simple and humble, the more poor and detached from ourselves, the more full of troubles and problems we are, the more bewildering life's ways, all the more must we look up to the skies and hear the great news: 'A Savior is born to you.' And let us listen in chorus to that great news, sung throughout the universe: 'Glory to God in the heavens, and on earth peace to those whom God loves.'" Give praise and thanksgiving to God!

**26** Kwanzaa Pray for our African-descent neighbors and siblings in Christ who observe Kwanzaa, a weeklong celebration of African culture and tradition that emphasizes family, community and culture. Give thanks for the rich and enduring practices of our siblings of African descent and of the global African community.

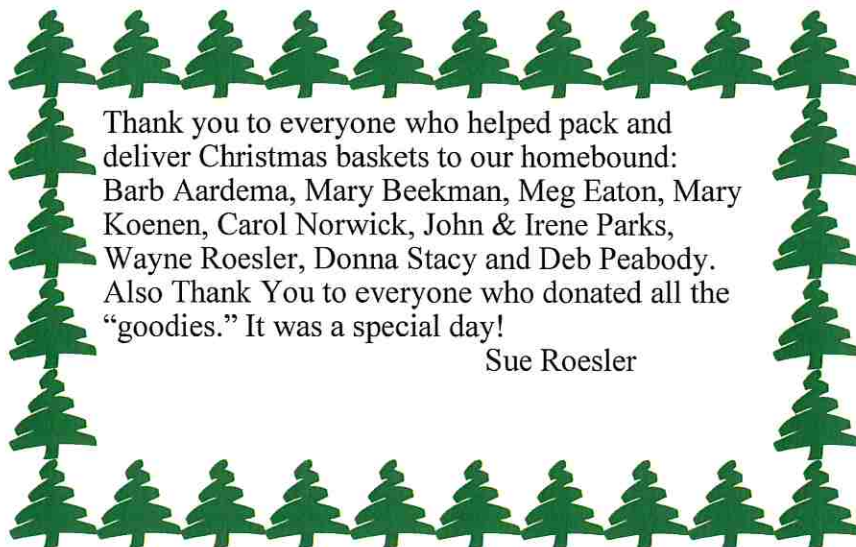
**27** Pray for those who are often forgotten, including neighbors who are incarcerated, are held in immigration detention centers, live in institutions, move from shelter to shelter or are unable to leave their homes.



Please join us on December 24, 2025 for  
Candles, Carols and Communion  
7:00 pm



**Thank You!**



### **This Week's Calendar**

<b>12/21 SUN</b>	<b>9am 10:15am</b>	<b>Adult Forum Worship</b>
<b>12/22 MON</b>	<b>9am-1pm 10:30 am</b>	<b>Office Hours Quilting</b>
<b>12/23 TUES</b>	<b>9am-1pm 11am</b>	<b>Office Hours Poinsettia Delivery</b>
<b>12/24 WED</b>	<b>9am-1pm 7:00 pm</b>	<b>Office Hours NO Food Pantry Candles, Carols &amp; Communion</b>
<b>12/25 THURS</b>		<b>Merry Christmas! Office Closed</b>
<b>12/26 FRI</b>		
<b>12/27 SAT</b>		<b>Private Event / Kitchen/Lounge</b>

### **Next Sunday, December 28**

<b>9am</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
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### **Upcoming events:**

January 1, 2026	Church office closed
January 2, 2026	Church office closed
January 16 - Pinewood Derby	6pm—8pm
January 17 - Pinewood Derby	1pm - Cub Scouts 3pm - Troop