

**December 9, 2025  
Advent 2**

**Welcome to long-time Lutherans, to Christians from every tradi-  
tion, 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 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19,  
Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12.**

*Readings for next week: Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James  
5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11. 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 mantel 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: Gilbert & Carol Norwick**

*Congregational prayers for December 2025: Randy & Cathy Nurmi; Ruth Nurmi; John & Chris Parman*



**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: All Saints Lutheran/ Mason; Rev. Gerald Ferguson**

*Next week we pray for: Christ Lutheran Church, Michigan Center; Rev. Robert Martin.*

**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.....	1,185.00
Non-Budget.....	12,325.00
In & Outs.....	0.00
Total Deposit.....	13,510.00
Fund of the Month - Nov - Worship	384.43
Fund of the Month - Dec - Music	

2025 Budget	208,519.00
Budgeted giving through 11/30/25	191,588.43
Needed	16,930.57

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Food Pantry numbers for Dec. 3: 99 families & 215 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.*

**7** Pray for the Spirit to form us into faithful yet ever-maturing disciples of Christ who, like John the Baptist, proclaim the gospel, invite others to believe, and boldly serve our neighbors.

**8** Martin Luther is supposed to have said, "I have so much to do that I shall have to spend the first three hours in prayer." For what and whom will you pray today?

**9** Ask God to help us find paths to peace and reconciliation in places of conflict where they have proved elusive, especially in Palestine, Israel, Eastern Europe, Northern Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. Remember in prayer the millions of people who have suffered and been displaced to unfamiliar lands.

**10** Theologian Henri Nouwen wrote, "The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord." Say a quiet prayer every day, acknowledging Advent as a time of remembrance, anticipation, celebration of God's presence and hope for Christ's return.

**11** Pray that the light of God's love and forgiveness will shine brightly, renewing your faith and guiding you every day.

**12** Remember in prayer local, state and national leaders, that they will exercise their responsibilities with compassion, justice, fairness and commitment. Ask God to help them as they address intractable problems in our communities and nation, including poverty, racism and limited access to health care.

**13** Give thanks for students returning home from colleges, universities and seminaries. Pray that their journeys will be safe and that they will be renewed by the blessings of family, friends and welcoming faith communities.

A D V E N T



○ come · ○ come · Emmanuel

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

<b>12/7 SUN</b>	<b>9am 10:15am 2pm</b>	<b>Adult Forum / Bell Choir Worship Kids Klub @ Playhouse - Circus Pop NO SCOUTS</b>
<b>12/8 MON</b>	<b>9am-1pm 10:30 am</b>	<b>Office Hours Quilting</b>
<b>12/9 TUES</b>	<b>9am-1pm 6pm</b>	<b>Office Hours Scouts</b>
<b>12/10 WED</b>	<b>9am-1pm 9:30am-10:30am</b>	<b>Office Hours Food Pantry Holden Evening Prayer</b>
<b>12/11 THURS</b>	<b>9am-1pm 10 am</b>	<b>Office Hours Christmas Basket assembly/deliver</b>
<b>12/12 FRI</b>		
<b>12/13 SAT</b>		

### **Next Sunday, December 14**

**9am                      Adult Forum**

### **Upcoming events:**

**Dec. 18 - 4pm-8pm Candlelight Yoga**

**Dec. 24 - NO FOOD PANTRY**

**Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Worship @ 6:30pm**

*Lebanon Lutheran Church*

1101 S. Mears Avenue  
Whitehall, MI 49461  
(231) 893-5745  
Rev. Douglas M. Ogden

www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com  
#llcsignsofgrace

**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

[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.