

# THE LIGHT



## Pastor's Note

March 1, 2026

### Lebanon Evangelical Lutheran Church

*A congregation of the North/West  
Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA  
Julie Schneider-Thomas, Bishop  
Yehiel Curry, 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  
M-Th 9AM-1:00PM

Office Manager  
Margaret Everling

#### Church Council

Cheri Crouch     Dave Dusenberry  
Kim Nelson     Toni Schillaci  
Amy Swope     Steve Troy  
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)

The month of March will see the first day of Spring. I personally enjoy winter, and usually only regret that I didn't spend more time at the sports complex or skiing in our woods with our dogs. I also look forward to making the personal care kits in Lent for Samaritas' Foster Care kids, and the Emphasis of the Month in March and April which raises the \$1000 that is our congregational anniversary gift to ELCA World Hunger. I am grateful for our congregation's enthusiasm for these things, and that they have become annual traditions!

I also think of the older generation of Lutherans, German refugees and the World War veterans, I grew up with who told stories on surviving the depression, the war, the refugee crisis that followed. They provided blankets, clothing, food to thousands. They helped people escape dangerous places, find shelter, helped them get documentation. It was fraught with risk, danger, some lost their lives. I remember those stories, heard the testimonies, met the survivors.

Lutheran World Relief began as a coordinated effort to provide aid in Central Europe, then expanded to North Africa, the Middle East, the rest of the world. They helped thousands get documents. So many musicians and lecturers came to the US undocumented so as not to cause the international conflict a defection would have, and they just never got around to finishing their concert tours.

The people of Minneapolis too knew what the stakes were, and so they protested. In the US we deport those who have committed criminal offences, we have trained agents who do their job, but we do not have masked, unidentified agents going door to door,

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rounding up people at their jobsite, or taking kids from schools. We hand them a clipboard and help them get the paperwork done. We also don't target people based on their skin color, language, or ethnic features. I remember when a bank in Springfield initiated a fingerprinting security plan. Those who had experienced East Germany put an end to it pretty quickly. An ICE presence in Springfield seems likely at some point, and I wonder how many people are still around who remember the stories that once filled the city.

We can help by listening for ways to support the synods and congregations involved, and we will provide news as we get it from the ELCA. We can also help our neighbors learn not to be afraid of differences, as disorienting as they may be sometimes. We can help new Americans adjust quicker so as to minimize confrontations. We can pray for them by name.

From Martin Luther's Lectures on Genesis: "Indeed we should be generous not only toward the brethren and such as are exiled because of their confession but also toward those who are strangers in the state, provided they are not manifestly evil . . . Even those he is not suffering because of the Word but is in distress in other respects, he should not be disregarded by us. In every time the church has been like a refuge of the exiles and the poor."

***Pastor Doug Ogden***

## **Newsletter from Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas**

The Great Litany is an intercessory prayer that has been used by the Church in some form since the 5th Century. You can find it in the hymn section of the ELW #238. Over the centuries, the Great Litany was often used during times of plague or distress. That tracks for me, as I have found myself drawn to pray the Great Litany when I can't come up with my own words to pray. By the time you have finished praying the Great Litany, you have pretty much covered it!

There is one particular set of petitions that have taken on greater meaning in the past five years...

*From war, bloodshed, and violence; from corrupt and unjust government; from sedition and treason... Good Lord, deliver us. From epidemic, drought, and famine; from fire and flood, earthquake, lightning and storm and from everlasting death... Good Lord, deliver us.*

I can remember a decade ago praying this prayer thinking: "Epidemic? Sedition? Treason? Okay, this is an old prayer, and I am sure someone needs these prayers, but they do not apply to my life." And then this prayer took on greater meaning as our loved ones were dying from Covid. It hit differently after I watched an angry mob break into the US Capitol to try to stop the certification of electoral votes. I pray it more fervently as I see masked ICE agents grabbing people off the street on the basis of the color of their skin and gassing peaceful protestors.

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We live in troubling times. These times have challenged us to think about what we do when we fundamentally disagree with family and friends who are dear to us. These times have challenged us to do more than watch the news and throw up our hands at the state of the world around us. These times call for us to go deeply into prayer, scripture and also to act. Pandemic. Sedition. Treason. Unjust government.

Although the times have changed, Jesus' command to us has not — love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength and your neighbor as yourself. If you feel paralyzed and unsure what to do, start close to home. Where do you see human need? Where do you see people singled out because of the color of their skin or the accent with which they speak? Where do you see people lonely or afraid? You can do something about these things. We can!

The Great Litany reminds us that Christians have faced troubling times and great challenges from the beginning. In fact, we are part of a movement that was born from crucifixion and death. Jesus' death and resurrection proclaim the power of God who delivers us. It is only by the grace and mercy of God that we stand. That same God has spoken to us through Jesus who calls us to a courageous and radical love of those who are the most vulnerable. It is Jesus who sends us his Spirit to act with the power of love to change what is not of God's love in the world.

So that you do not lose heart, I encourage you to pray; find a copy of the Great Litany and cover the world and its suffering in prayer; join others in the morning (9:00am) and evening (7:00pm) prayer on my Facebook page. Gather on Sunday with a faith community to be fed with God's Word and Holy Communion. Find others who have a heart for suffering and injustice, and work together to do that first good thing and then plan the next good thing.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

**+Bishop Julie**



**The Council is working on an emergency preparedness plan. We will meet March 3rd at 6 pm at the church. We are working on writing a plan that will hopefully prepare us for all emergencies that may happen.**

**If you would like to be part of this team, please call or email David Dusenberry on his cell, 231-670-6253, by email, [realtordaviddusenberry@gmail.com](mailto:realtordaviddusenberry@gmail.com), or just show up.**

# Prayer Concerns



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

This month in your prayers, please remember:

## Prayers for those who are homebound:

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

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

Shirley Glass, with health concerns, 3121 Lake Michigan Dr. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

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

Val Johnson, at White Lake Assisted Living, 6827 Whitehall Road, Whitehall, MI 49461

Ken Kolb, with health issues - 6755 W. Old Channel Trail; Montague 49437

Elaine Liska, at Sunrise of Troy – Room 130, 6870 Crooks Road, Troy, MI 48098-1704

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, at Robinswood Assisted Living, 2650 Ruddiman, N. Muskegon 49445

## Special Prayer Concerns:

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

**Jenna Brown, at home recuperating after surgery**

**Lucas Carlson, (Terry and Mary Beekman’s grandson) for new treatment**

**Diane Eastman, with health concerns**

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

**Brian Holmblade, with heart issues**

**Mary Lewallen, recovering from spinal surgery**

**Dwight Mead (Paula Moreau’s brother-in-law), non-Hodgkins’s lymphoma mantel type (stage four)**

**Martha Ogden (Pastor Ogden’s mother), with health concerns**

**John Parks, with health concerns**

**Bev Statz, with health concerns**

**Katie VandeBunte (Donna and Ernie Stacy’s daughter), being treated for Stage II breast cancer**

**Darlene Willbrandt, with 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.

HAPPY  
*Birthday*

3/1 Sheila Fretty  
3/1 Samantha Jo Hendrixon  
3/1 Ray Richardson  
3/1 Roger Silk  
3/3 Karen Baker  
3/4 Dakota King  
3/5 Mary Lewallen  
3/8 Kelsey Fretty  
3/10 James Will  
3/11 Tim DeMumbrum  
3/13 Ethan Reynolds

3/14 Sandy Robbins  
3/15 Lucinda Grover  
3/15 Tom Palmer  
3/19 Louis Hosticka  
3/19 Heather Moss  
3/23 Braxton Murphy  
3/23 Bryce Murphy  
3/23 Charles Schmalz  
3/25 Mallory Crouch  
Lothschutz  
3/25 Anna DeNicolo Geiser

3/25 Earl Hertel  
3/26 Brittney Roesler  
3/28 Nathan Baker  
3/29 Marty DeNicolo  
3/29 Donna Knoth  
3/29 Chuck Miller  
3/30 Jane Blyth  
3/31 Eric Plewka  
3/31 Denise Rumsey

*Baptism Anniversaries*

**Celebrate your baptism anniversary by lighting a candle with 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 into Christ.”*

3/10 Beverly Statz  
3/10 David Hendrixon  
3/13 Toni Schillaci  
3/17 Irene Parks

3/20 John Wahr  
3/21 Mitchell Clark  
3/23 Braxton Murphy  
3/23 Bryce Murphy

3/24 Tom Palmer  
3/28 Eric Plewka  
3/29 Traci Murphy



*Anniversary Blessings*



3/16/85

Glenn and Meg Eaton

FIVE  
WEDNESDAYS  
FIVE  
LOCAL  
CHURCHES



EVERYONE  
IS  
*Welcome*

12 NOON - 1:00 p.m.



## WHITE LAKE COMMUNITY

# LENTEN LUNCHEONS

**FEBRUARY 25 - Ferry Reformed Church**  
8637 Old Channel Trail, Montague  
Guest speaker, Pastor Doug Ogden  
of Lebanon Lutheran Church

**MARCH 4 - White Lake Congregational UCC**  
1809 S. Mears Ave., Whitehall  
Guest speaker, Pastor Mike Borgert  
of Ferry Memorial Reformed Church

**March 11 - White Lake Methodist Church**  
8555 Cook St., Montague  
Guest speaker, Pastor Donna Morton  
of White Lake Congregational UCC

**MARCH 18 - Lebanon Lutheran Church**  
1101 S. Mears Ave., Whitehall  
Guest speaker, Fr. Ronald Hutchinson  
of St. James Catholic Church

**MARCH 25 - St. James Catholic Church**  
5149 Dowling St., Montague  
Guest speaker, Pastor Timothy Dibble  
of White Lake United Methodist Church

Donations at the luncheons will go to support

**HOPE**  
SQUAD

at Montague High School  
and Whitehall High School

Learn more about HOPE SQUAD at:  
[hopesquad.com](http://hopesquad.com)

## Easter Flower Orders are Due March 8, 2026.

Choose from Easter lilies, tulips, mums, hyacinth, azaleas, and mini daffodils to honor or remember someone special.

Order forms are available on the table outside the office.



Happy  
Easter!

## March Newsletter from Thrivent – Direct Your Choice Dollars This Month

March is a great time to remember the impact you can make through your Thrivent Choice Dollars®. **If you're a Thrivent member, consider directing your 2025 Choice Dollars to a nonprofit that reflects your passions and values.** If you don't have an organization in mind, your church is a wonderful place to start. You can also consider supporting Roots & Wings (EIN 92-2602897), our partner nonprofit dedicated to serving and empowering widows in practical and meaningful ways. However you choose to give, your direction of Choice Dollars helps strengthen missions that matter—thank you for using your generosity to make a lasting difference in our community. **You can designate your Choice Dollars through your Thrivent portal or call our office for assistance—just be sure to do so before they expire on March 31st!**

If you would like to talk with your local Thrivent Financial Advisor please call Marci Bentz at 231-894-8886 or contact by text at 231-760-8246.



**The Fund of the Month for March and April is Good Gifts:** all proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief efforts to provide livestock, seedlings, water filters, medical care and education to individuals and communities around the world. Mark your envelope or gift “Fund of the Month” or Good Gifts.”

**Lenten Project: Supply children in foster care with their own personal care kits**

We are collecting items for personal care kits for children in Samaritas’ foster care. The schedule below is suggested: items are welcome anytime through Lent and are collected on the table next to the altar. For those far away, items may also be delivered to the church M-Th between 9AM and 1PM through Amazon or similar delivery services. Thank you!

**2/22 Week One: Towels and Washcloths**

**3/1 Week Two: Combs**

**3/10 Week Three: Nail Clippers**

**3/17 Week Four: Toothpaste and Toothbrushes**

**3/24 Week Five: Soap**

**Palm Sunday Week Six: Assemble Kits**



# Worship Notes

**Sunday March 1 – Lent 2 - 10:15 AM**

**Today we pray for:** Adrienne Clahassey

**Readings:** Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

**Prayer of the Day:** O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Sunday March 8 – Lent 3 - 10:15 AM**

**Today we pray for:** Jone Benedict

**Readings:** Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

**Prayer of the Day:** Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Sunday March 15 – Lent 4 - 10:15 AM**

**Today we pray for:** Jon & Danielle DeMumbrum  
Elara, Finn, & Gemma

**Readings:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

**Prayer of the Day:** Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Sunday March 22 – Lent 5 - 10:15 AM**

**Today we pray for:** Jim & Flo King

**Readings:** Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

**Prayer of the Day:** Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**March 29 – Palm Sunday – 10:15 AM**

**Today we pray for:** Dustin King

**Readings:** Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14—27:66

**Prayer of the Day:** Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.