

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



**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     David Dusenberry  
Kim Nelson     Toni Schillaci  
Amy Swope     Stephen 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)

**Pastor’s Note**

**May 1, 2026**

**Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

The transition from winter to spring, the transition from Lent to Easter, and for some the transition from Florida to Michigan is upon us.

It has become a tradition for us to assemble personal care kits for refugees and foster care kids each Lent, and we have done that! They were picked up by Samaritas’ representative and delivered to their office in Grand Rapids in April. This year, thanks to Meg and Donna, we added kits for infants, for they too are foster kids and refugees.

And now, to help celebrate our 154<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we raise funds for the Good Gifts ministry of ELCA World Hunger. Not often do you hear of giving a gift to celebrate an anniversary instead of receiving one. But it really is more wonderful to give than to receive. Lebanon was founded on Sunday, June 2, 1872. It was the first Sunday of the long green summer season, back then called Trinity season, now called Pentecost season.

Our Kids Klub too is transitioning as they become older. Expect this May to see new acolytes in new acolyte robes. To continue the fine work our Kids Klub leaders have been doing, we need one more volunteer as the ministry has grown to involve more kids. In other words, to make this transition, we need you!

Expect in April and May to hear the organ as we welcomed in a new organist in April, and work out the plans for more. The organ received new speakers this winter and sounds great.

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Expect to see a new choir director this fall, who was our guest director for Easter. We have worked out arrangement for her to be with us this fall. Expect to hear the bell choir one more time before the long summer break.

As we have transitioned to a newly elected Bishop, Synod Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas, we invited her to be with us in June for our 154<sup>th</sup> anniversary. However she was booked up all the way into fall, so we scheduled her for our 155<sup>th</sup> on June 6, 2027! How's that for planning ahead?

We are making transitions in White Lake Scouting and in our Food Pantry. We have authorized the next steps toward a building, which involves electrical services and tree removal services (some of which we had to do as a result of the storm damage).

Transitions are well under way to move our recording equipment into the balcony. Carpentry work by the property committee, electrical work coming next will give a dedicated safe space for all Mike's equipment, and allow us to put the sanctuary door back (the air conditioner will be happier when we do!)

Living out the resurrection in our lives hasn't changed too much in 154 years, nor even in 2000, but the opportunities and methods for communicating the faith to others, and growing in faith ourselves changes all the time. We are making those transitions.

Expect also in May to welcome an art display in our sanctuary called "Soul Boxes." It will take up the south aisle, so those of you who sit on the organ side will have to enter your pew from the center aisle for a little while. The display is 1406 origami boxes each representing the average number of gun violence death in Michigan each year. We will be open for the public to view them May 2-14. If you'd like to make a box, you can participate in a folding event at:

- the Senior Center Monday May 4 from 12-3 pm;
- the White Lake Community Library Tuesday, May 4 from 4-7 pm;
- the Montague Library Tuesday, May 12 from 2 am to 4:30 pm;
- the White Lake Arts Council Thursday May 14 from 11 am to 1 pm

The Soul Box project is a nation-wide effort, launched in our area by St John's Episcopal, and the United Methodist Church of the Dunes, both in Grand Haven.

Finally, thanks a thousand times over to the participants of the Lenten Wednesday noon lunches, who provided \$1100 to the Hope Squads of both Whitehall and Montague School Districts for their work in suicide prevention. It was an honor to be among the Pastors who presented the checks to the student leaders.

**Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia**

*Pastor Doug Ogden*

# 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, The Cottages at Martin Lake, 3088 S Van Wagoner Ave, Fremont, MI 49412

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:**

Cindy Albert, suffering from dizziness

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, recovering from surgery

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

Mike Schmalz, recovering from surgery

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*

5/1 Darrel Otto  
5/1 Adrienne Clahassey  
5/2 Eric Nelson  
5/3 Monica Ogden  
5/4 Jeremy Bernhardt  
5/6 Ann Bloom  
5/6 Lauren Nelson  
5/7 Arin (Snell) Bowen  
5/9 Kathleen Wiethoff  
5/10 Lauralee Kesteloot

5/10 Katie Shalifoe  
5/11 Vicki Hinks  
5/12 Mary Wendell  
5/14 Don Nelson  
5/16 Megan Ahrenholz  
5/16 Andrew Hildebrandt  
5/17 Eric Nessa  
5/18 Renae Pike  
5/18 Sally Kahlo  
5/20 Dan Girvan

5/21 Mitchell Clark  
5/21 Minnie Estlund  
5/21 Juanita Holmblade  
5/22 Phyllis Monte  
5/25 Thomas Hildebrandt  
5/28 Elaine Liska  
5/30 Art Plewka  
5/31 Elaine Stevens

*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."*

5/1 Elaine Skinner  
5/1 Jenna Brown  
5/2 Allie Ogden  
5/6 Ray Lathrop  
5/6 Sarah Lathrop  
5/6 Bernice Schuitema  
5/7 Zoe Fretty  
5/7 Krysten Hosticka

5/9 Bob Palmer  
5/11 Todd Lamiman  
5/12 Jay Otto  
5/13 Brad Carlson  
5/15 Matthew Parman  
5/16 Donna Knoth  
5/18 Savannah Chittisane  
5/19 Dakota King

5/19 Jim King  
5/22 Nancy Dahl  
5/29 Lisa Clark  
5/30 Dean Roesler  
5/31 Shawn Erwin  
5/31 Taylor Hughes



*Anniversary Blessings*



5/6/78 John & Becky Wahr  
5/13/00 Tom & Lea Palmer  
5/22/93 Eric & Stephanie Hein  
5/28/95 Wietse & Melanie Schaafsma  
5/30/87 Scott & Katherine Keller  
5/31/99 David & Barb Dusenberry



*Shoes on the Danube*

## **Wandering and Wondering with Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas**

"Make sure you see *Shoes on the Danube*," that's what my sister told me when I asked what she recommended from her own visit to Budapest. "Shoes on the Danube" is an art installation memorializing people who were executed by the Arrow Cross Militiamen (Hungarian Nazis) in Budapest along the Danube River in 1944-45. During this time, the Arrow Cross Militia rounded up 23,500 people, 20,000 of whom were Jewish. Those to be executed were marched to the edge of the Danube, so that when they were shot, their bodies would fall into the river and be carried away.

But first. First, they were told to take off their shoes. Why? Because in a time of war and scarcity, those shoes were highly valuable. Imagine that. The shoes were more valuable than the human beings who wore them.

It's a lie that we humans tell over and over — throughout history. Even now. This one or that one is less than human and then we use words to create a story that is much different than what God has taught us — all human beings are created in God's image. The trumped-up story tells us that we can treat the "less-than-human" humans in ways that we know are wrong in order to get what we want. Getting what we want is more valuable than whom we hurt or kill to get it.

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Imagine believing a story that told you that a pair of shoes is more valuable than a human life. In these days, keep your ears full of the words of Jesus: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." (Mt. 25:40)

+BJST



**Thrivent May Church Newsletter:** May often brings moments that remind us of generations—celebrating mothers, honoring family stories, and reflecting on the people who have shaped our lives. It's a meaningful time to consider not just what we pass down financially, but also the values, wisdom, and intentions behind it.

Legacy planning isn't only about documents or dollars; it's about having thoughtful conversations with loved ones and ensuring that what matters most is clearly understood. When families take time to plan together, they create clarity, unity, and peace—gifts that can bless generations to come.

If you have questions or would like to begin a legacy conversation—whether you're just starting to think about it or ready to take next steps—please feel free to reach out to your local Thrivent representative. Contact Marci Bentz at 231-894-8886 or text at 231-760-8246, she is happy to help!

**The Fund of the Month for May is Synod Benevolence.** Each year our church contributes a percentage of our offering to support the Synod's work and missions. This fund helps offset that cost to Lebanon's general fund and directly helps the larger North/West Lower Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thanks for remembering our Synod!

**On Easter morning we celebrated with some joyful noises!**



**We are offering Swim Lessons for 2026!**

**July 6-10 and July 13-17  
11:30 am—1:30 pm  
(group times TBD by  
swim instructor)**

**Cost: \$65 per child**

**Pool Location:  
1230 Schuler /  
North Muskegon 49445**

**Ages 3-4 (11:30 am - noon)**

**Ages 5-8 (shallow) (12:00 pm - 12:30 pm)**

**Ages 5-8 (deep) (12:30 pm -1:00 pm)**

**Ages 9-12+ (1:00—1:30 pm)**

**Muskegon YMCA Certified swim instructors will be  
conducting the lessons.**

Register online at: [www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com](http://www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com) or  
pick up a form near the church office.

Call Lebanon Lutheran Church - 893-5745

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## *Worship Notes*

**Sunday May 3 – Easter 5 – 10:15 AM**

**Today we pray for: Ginny Farmer**

**Readings:** Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

**Prayer of the Day:** Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Sunday May 10 – Easter 6- 10:15 AM**

**Today we pray for: Chuck & Ann Nessa**

**Readings:** Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

**Prayer of the Day:** Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Sunday May 17 – Easter 7 - 10:15 AM**

**Today we pray for: Charles & Sally Jackson,  
Matthew & Sylvia**

**Readings:** Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11, John 17:1-11

**Prayer of the Day:** O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Sunday May 24 – Pentecost - 10:15 AM**

**Today we pray for: Tommy Foster**

**Readings:** Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 20:19-23

**Prayer of the Day:** O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Sunday May 31 – The Holy Trinity – 10:15 AM**

**Today we pray for: Minnie Estlund**

**Readings:** Genesis 1:1–2:4a, Psalm, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

**Prayer of the Day:** Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.