

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Note

June 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 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

Our Food Pantry has seriously outgrown its space in the split-level basement it's been using. Our Scout House had to be taken down years ago due to its unsafe condition. And so we have been raising money and developing plans for both of these successful ministries to have the right size facilities.

On Tuesday, May 19, 2026 Lebanon's Church Council voted to recommend that the congregation approve a plan with Visscher Construction out of Ludington to build a 48 x 90-foot building for both the Food Pantry and the Scouting Units, including garage space for the four Scout trailers that winter in the parking lot. It also includes a protective overhang so the food pantry volunteers can distribute, protected from the snow and rain.

We have raised the funds to pay for it.

There will be information sessions after worship May 31; in the evening Scout meeting at 6:30 pm on June 7; and again during the 9 o'clock hour and after worship on June 7.

Therefore, the Church Council has called for a Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 7 at 11:30 am after worship. (Since June 7 is also Lebanon's 154th Anniversary, there will be ice cream, and the bell choir will ring in Year 155 during worship). The drawings and contract are already on display on a table in the mailbox area.

If the contract is approved by the Congregation, the finance committee will determine which funds to use when so as to maximize earned interest. Construction will begin around October 1, and finish around April 1. *(Continued on p. 2)*

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Why this timetable for these information sessions and vote? Two reasons. You may have heard that Bev Uetricht, wife of Pastor Bill Uetricht at First Lutheran Church, North Muskegon is facing a serious operation that has hospitalized her many times this winter; they are still searching for a liver transplant match. Pastor Uetricht was scheduled to lead a group tour to Ireland June 17-28 and had to tap Pastor Ogden as his replacement. Since Pastor Ogden has been the main communication link between the Council, Visscher, the Scout leaders, and the Food pantry volunteers, the session had to be either before the trip, or wait until late July, which could jeopardize a 2027 fall start date.

Smorgasbord, by the way (one of the most fun nights of the year) is Thursday, July 16. Tickets are \$18; that's no increase in price from last year.

Members will lead worship June 21 and 28, as they have in the past, with sermons by Paula Dusseljee, Pastoral Associate at First, or possibly Pastor Uetricht if he is able.

Please look at the drawings and contract, please come to an information session and ask questions all you want, and mark your calendars or phones for June 7 for ice cream and a Special Meeting to consider Council's recommendation.

Pastor Doug Ogden



Swedish
Smörgåsbord



Lebanon Lutheran Church
1101 S. Mears Avenue
Whitehall

Thursday, July 16, 2026, 5:30 pm

Adults \$18.00 Children 5-10 \$10.00
Under 5 - Free

Tickets available at the church office or
at the door



Lebanon Lutheran
2026 Smörgåsbord
vuzimo

Scans to use mobile app only

Please join us at 9:00 AM on June 7 for an information session prior to worship regarding the construction of our new Scout House/Food Pantry building.

After worship, stay and enjoy ice cream in honor of Lebanon's 154th Anniversary, followed by the Congregational Vote on the new construction plan.



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

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

6/4 Megan Crouch
6/6 Brianna Clark Carter
6/7 Brianne Roesler
6/10 Ian Palmer
6/11 Katherine Keller
6/11 Ken Kolb
6/12 Wayne Roesler
6/14 Mary Ellen Larson

6/15 Gina Holmblade
Jenkins
6/15 Mike Schmalz
6/16 Virginia DeMumbrum
6/16 Danielle Jacobs
6/21 Jenny Lynn Girvan
6/22 William Hildebrandt
6/23 Christopher Lathrop

6/23 Thomas Swiatek
6/26 Lois Szczerbinski
6/28 Sally Hollister Jackson
6/28 Jim King
6/29 Alaina Moreau Leo

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.”

6/1 Eric Nessa
6/1 John Lundell
6/6 Doug Ogden
6/6 Steve Green
6/10 Frank Hollister
6/13 Rob Wahr
6/14 Sharon Ackerman

6/14 Mallory Lothschutz
6/15 Darrin Roesler
6/17 Nicholas Will
6/17 Daniel Civis
6/19 Catherine Shalifoe
6/19 Robin Civis
6/21 Jon Honoré

6/22 Thomas Civis
6/23 Andreas Holmblade
6/26 Megan Aardema
Ahrenholz
6/27 Ann Bloom
6/28 Lorey Montgomery



Anniversary Blessings



6/1/68	Wayne & Sue Roesler
6/6/15	Charles & Debbie Peabody
6/8/68	John & Irene Parks
6/16/73	Dan & Jenny Lynn Girvan
6/20/92	Steve & Cindy Albert
6/21/24	Stephen & Ariel Ogden
6/22/74	Doug & Barb Aardema
6/23/01	Roy & Esther Baldrige
6/25/83	Doug & Monica Ogden
6/28/69	Ernie & Donna Stacy
6/29/85	Scott & Elaine Stevens



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

Lebanon Lutheran
@LebanonLutheran



venmo

Scan this code to pay

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 or
pick up a form near the church office.

Call Lebanon Lutheran Church - 893-5745



Thrivent Church Newsletter for June:

In June, we recognize **International Widow’s Day**, a time to pause and honor the widows among us—and those who are widow-like, carrying loss, caregiving fatigue, or deep grief that reshaped their lives. Widows are often quietly faithful, resilient, and overlooked. As a financial advisor, I’ve seen how important it is to care not only for practical needs, but for hearts as well. I’m grateful to point our community to **Roots & Wings**, a nonprofit offering gentle, faith-rooted grief resources created specifically for widows. These free resources are available anytime and can be explored privately and at one’s own pace at www.rootsandwingslegacy.org/grief.

Your local Thrivent Financial Advisor is here for you! Contact Marci Bentz at the Whitehall Office by calling 231-894-8886 or via text at 231-760-8246.

The Fund of the Month for June is Swim Lessons

Because we live in an area full of beautiful, swimmable waters, Lebanon Lutheran Church has organized swim lessons for kids for many years. We are fortunate that the Crouch family donates the use of their pool. Participating families pay most of the cost of the instructor, but donations to this Fund of the Month will help pay for an assistant and support scholarships for financial aid for families that might need it. To donate, just mark your check or envelope “Fund of the Month” or “Swim.” Thank you for helping this important mission!

Samaritas Representative Receives Over 100 Personal Care Kits for Children!



Samaritas™

Dear Pastor Doug,

Thank you for your in-kind donation on 4/14/26 valued at \$3,000.

You Rock

Your in-kind gift will help uplift clients in our care. All gifts, whether monetary or in-kind, are vital to us as we fulfill our mission: *Serving people as an expression of the love of Christ.*

On behalf of the people served by Samaritas, thank you for your in-kind contribution. Feel free to contact Teresa Swantek at tswan@samaritas.org with any questions.

With gratitude,

Judy Waito

The White Lake Chamber Music Festival concludes its celebrated 2026 season with Festival Finale: Baroque Splendor on Saturday, July 25 at 7:00 PM at Lebanon Lutheran Church.

This grand finale concert offers audiences an evening of elegance, virtuosity, and dramatic beauty through a richly varied Baroque-inspired program featuring masterworks by Corelli, J.S. Bach, Handel, Purcell, and Mozart.

The evening includes Corelli's Concerto in D Major, J.S. Bach's Flute Concerto, Harpsichord Concerto, and the beloved Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, alongside treasured vocal works including Mozart's Laudate Dominum, Handel's Lascia ch'io pianga from Rinaldo, selections from Purcell's The Fairy Queen, and Handel's Tra le fiamme.

Filled with sparkling instrumental brilliance, expressive vocal artistry, and the ornate beauty of Baroque style, Festival Finale: Baroque Splendor serves as a fitting conclusion to ten days of world-class chamber music performances in the White Lake area.

Tickets (\$25) and full schedule may be found at <https://www.whitelakemusic.org/festival/schedule/>



Worship Notes

Sunday June 7 – Pentecost 2 – 10:15 AM

Today we pray for: Shirley Glass

Readings: Hosea 5:15—6:6, Psalm 50:7-15, Romans 4:13-25, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Prayer of the Day: O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday June 14 – Pentecost 3 - 10:15 AM

Today we pray for: Diane Eastman

Readings: Exodus 19:2-8a, Psalm 100, Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

Prayer of the Day: God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday June 21 – Pentecost 4 - 10:15 AM

Today we pray for: Curt & Cheri Crouch

Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15], 16-18, Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39

Prayer of the Day: Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday June 28 – Pentecost 5- 10:15 AM

Today we pray for: Ruth Nurmi

Readings: Jeremiah 28:5-9, Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18, Romans 6:12-23, Matthew 10:40-42

Prayer of the Day: O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.