

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

Pastor's Note

September 1, 2026

The long-anticipated ground-breaking for a Food Pantry/Scout Center will be Sunday, October 4 at 5:00 PM. Scouts of Troop 1048, Pack 4048, and Crew 2048 will open with flags and the Scout Oath, Law and pledges.

There are important thank-yous, introductions, and leaders will break ground with ceremonial shovels, then we will move to the lounge for a potluck dinner at 5:30 (with some pizza provided).

Viki's last Sunday with us will be September 13th. Please come as she leads worship. She flies back to Bratislava on September 17th.

It will be a non-communion worship as Pastor Ogden will be in Ohio for the official closing of his mother's ELCA congregation in Springfield. He will be away September 11-14.

So we give thanks for the grace given in good times and in hard.

Pastor Doug Ogden

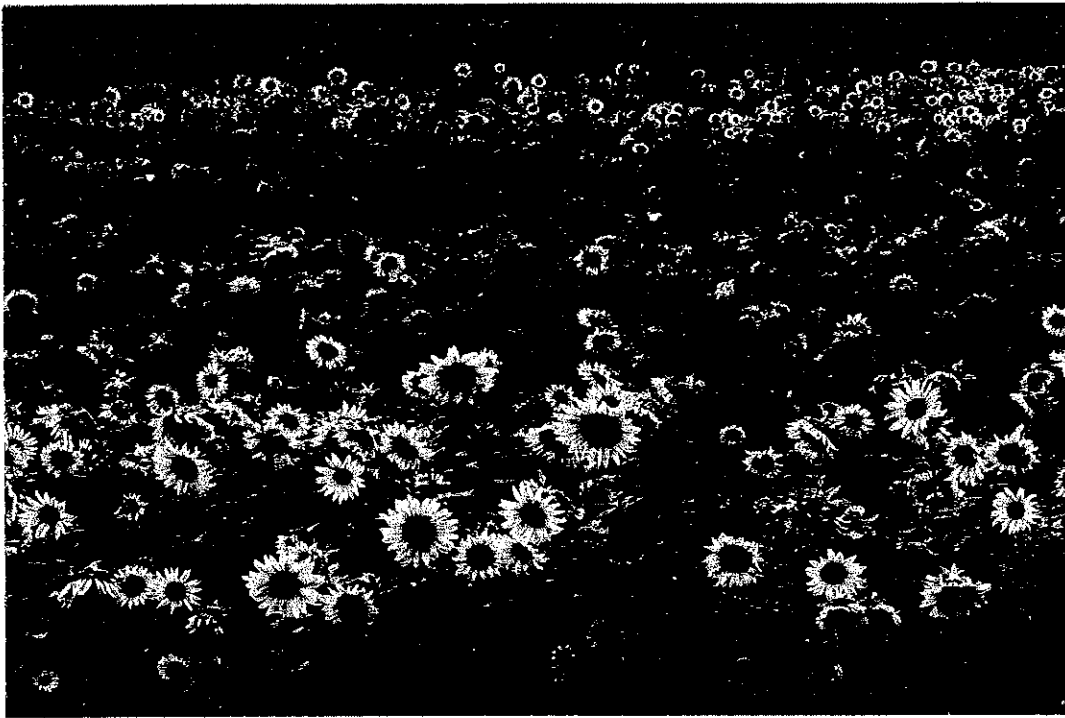
Church Music Updates

- As Diane recovers, the vocal choir will start practicing on September 27 after church under the direction of Alexys Nevitt. All are welcome!

Tentative choir practice dates: 9/27, 10/4, 10/18, 10/25

- Bell Choir: The bells will begin their season with practices on September 13th and 20th. Hope these dates work for most people.
- 🔔 It'll be good to get back to ringing! New ringers are welcome!

Wandering and Wondering with Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas



O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you.

As the day rises to meet the sun.

These are the opening words to morning prayer in one of the devotional resources I use. It's a great prayer for the beginning of the day, asking God to awaken us to God's presence as we step into the first sun-lit moments of our waking hours.

Twice this week as I was driving to a meeting, I was greeted by a field of sunflowers. This picture is of a field along M-66, just north of Six Lakes. I saw an even larger field in Grand Traverse county a few days later. Both brimmed with the attentiveness and optimism that sunflowers bring. Young sunflowers move their blooms to follow the sun during the day. Once the heads have matured, they stay fixed to the east. Both of these actions help the plant to achieve maximum growth.

It's a great metaphor for us. From the moment of our waking until we rest our heads and turn ourselves over to the restorative power of sleep, we are at our healthiest as we stay in orientation to the Son: as we immerse ourselves in scripture, in kind and loving conversation and action with other people, in singing praise.

Often, I am reminded to pay attention to God by the world around me. Those sunflowers called me to prayer and praise twice this week. I hope they will do the same for you!

O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you.

As the day rises to meet the sun.

+Bishop Julie

Thrivent Church Newsletter for September

As we celebrate Labor Day this month, I'm reminded that work is about so much more than a paycheck. It's one of the ways God allows us to use our gifts, serve others, and provide for those we love. Every season of work, whether you're just beginning your career, approaching retirement, or navigating a transition, offers opportunities to be faithful stewards of the time, talents, and resources entrusted to us. This month, I encourage you to pause and reflect on the work you've done, the lives you've impacted, and the ways God has been at work through you. May you find both gratitude for the journey and renewed purpose for the road ahead. And as you think about what comes next, I'd be honored to help you align your financial plans with your goals and values. If you'd like to start the conversation, please reach out. I'd love to connect with you.

To reach Marci Bentz, your local Thrivent financial professional, call 231-894-8886 or text 231-760-8246.

You are invited to the GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY of the WHITE LAKE FOOD PANTRY/SCOUT CENTER

At Lebanon Lutheran Church – 1101 S. Mears, Whitehall MI 49461

Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 5:00 pm

Agenda on the site: Scout Opening Ceremony with flags

Thank Yous and Introductions

Ceremonial Ground Breaking

In the lounge: Potluck dinner with extra pizzas provided

The idea for this project began fifteen years ago. We have successfully raised the funds and have entered into a contract with Visscher Construction of Ludington. Today the White Lake Food Pantry serves over a hundred families every week, with over 30 regular volunteers.

First chartered in 1953, Scout Troop 1048, Pack 4048 and Venture Crew 2048 serve over 30 youth with many trained and supportive adult leaders.

You are invited because you represent a part of the wide-ranging community support that makes what we do possible. Thank you!

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

Shirley Glass, Story Point West, 3121 Lake Michigan Drive NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

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

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

Ken Kolb, American House – Spring Lake Pebblebrook; 18100 – 174th Avenue, #10, Spring Lake, MI 49456

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

Phyllis Monte, Legacy of Caring - Whitehall—1302 Warner Street, Whitehall 49461

Ruth Nurmi, 308 E. Dayton Street, Fremont, 49412

Lois Szczerbinski, Robinswood Assisted Living, 2650 Ruddiman, N. Muskegon 49445

Special Prayer Concerns:

Cindy Albert, suffering from dizziness

Don B., (Ernie Stacy's friend from the Lion's Club), newly diagnosed with leukemia

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, with health concerns

Tom and Sheila Fretty, with health concerns

Brian Holmblade, with heart issues

Pam Landis, friend of Barb Aardema, awaiting results from medical tests

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

Bev Uetrict, recovering from transplant surgery

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*

9/1 Lorey Montgomery
9/1 Megan Nelson Fretty
9/2 Richard Bernhardt
9/3 Paula Moreau
Williamson
9/5 Heather Wiethoff
9/6 Melissa Berry
9/6 Marlene Holmstrom
9/6 Deb Statz Peabody
9/7 Josh Keller

9/8 Robin Civis
9/8 Darlene Willbrandt
9/10 Valerie Johnson
9/11 Brian Jaekel
9/12 Dennis Roesler II
9/13 Zachary Bowen
9/14 Alice Hollister
9/18 Mary Carlson
Beekman
9/18 Bob Palmer

9/18 Sue Roesler
9/19 Dale Bouck
9/19 Cheri Crouch
9/19 Shawn Erwin
9/20 Robert Lathrop
9/21 Chad Parks
9/22 Jason Roesler
9/23 Jodi Emms
9/23 Stephen Ogden
9/24 Jeff Holmstrom

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."

9/7 Lois Szczerbinski
9/11 Ethan Reynolds
9/13 Wayne Roesler

9/18 Molly Crouch Mooren
9/18 Brianne Roesler
9/19 Jessica Gelvin

9/20 Brittney Roesler
9/23 Brooke Otto
9/29 Morgan Hughes



Anniversary Blessings



9/2/90 Stephen & Suzanne Troy
9/4/93 Jay & Mardi Otto
9/5/14 Becky and Mike Chynoweth
9/8/18 Frank & Alice Hollister
9/9/77 Mike & Kay Snell
9/11/82 Rick & Holly Hughes
9/13/14 Carol and Terry Deneke

9/14/03
9/17/22
9/19/92
9/22/90
9/23/72
9/26/87
9/26/92

Terry & Mary Beekman
Jeffrey & Macy Hendrixon
Dwight & Michelle Roesler
Don & Amy Romain
Roger & JoAnne Silk
Jim and Flo King
Troy and Mary Gallihugh



Grieving a loss?

Find hope and healing after the death of a loved one.

When: Tuesdays, 6 - 7:30pm, beginning September 8th, 2026, for 13 weeks

Where: First Lutheran Church, 1206 Whitehall Rd. Muskegon, MI 49445

Contacts: Paula Dusseljee (paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org)

Evie DiPiazza (evie.dipiazza@gmail.com)

Pat Clifford (pat@the-cliffords.com)

Register: griefshare.org/findagroup

Workbooks will be provided

The Fund of the Month for September is Slovak Intern Program

Since 1999 we have been blessed by the presence of our Lutheran seminarians from Slovakia. While they are with us, they invariably teach us new ways of looking at the world and new ideas about faith, church, and community. We offer them an opportunity to learn about pastoral ministry from Pastor Ogden, to live with several families from our church, and to experience life in the United States. This fund helps finance the program, including airfare and stipends. Please consider adding a donation to this cause in your offering this month.



The Church Council would like to ask that all Thrivent members order their Thrivent Cause kits (either water filter or solar light) and if you can, have them delivered to the church so that we can celebrate God's Work Our Hands Day on Sunday September 27 after worship.

The ELCA normally celebrates God's Work Our Hands on Sep 13, but that will be Viki's last Sunday and this gives us more time for kits to be delivered.

Thrivent members: to order your kits, sign into your account, go to

<https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-cause-kit> and click "Request a Kit."

Backpack Giveaway – 2026 by Backpack Coordinator Jenna Brown

This year's backpack giveaway on Wednesday August 12 was a great success thanks to many volunteers from Lebanon as well as Shoreline Elementary PTO and Shoreline Principal Beth Whaley.

- We gave away 117 backpacks on the night to a total of 49 Families/Groups.
- 10 Additional Backpacks were sent to Hart Schools courtesy of Sarah Schmalz.
- 10 Additional Backpacks went to restock the school supply cupboard at Shoreline Elementary.
- That's a total of 137 backpacks!
- We also had stations for school supplies and water bottles & water bottle decals
- The Book-Bike from White Lake Community Library made an appearance and kids could pick out a new book to take home.
- The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts provided information on how to join.
- HealthWest provided information about Mental Health treatment and support for people of all ages.
- Consumers Power were truly fantastic– showing up early to finish set up and helping with everything from food to parking. Huge thanks to Flo for organizing such a helpful and kind crew!
- Thank you to all the volunteers who grilled hot dogs, dished up potato salad and provided drinks for everyone.
- Making a return this year: Haircuts! Provided by the Staff of Deadmen's
- 35 Families signed up for our mailing list to be notified about other events at Lebanon, including Kids Club and Swim Lessons, and next year's Backpack Giveaway.



Families gathering to fill backpacks



Looking festive and welcoming



Worship Notes

Sunday September 6 – Pentecost 15 – 10:15 AM

Today we pray for: Jenna Brown

Readings: Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

Prayer of the Day: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday September 13 – Pentecost 16 - 10:15 AM

Today we pray for: Doug & Barb Aardema

Readings: Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

Prayer of the Day: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday September 20 – Pentecost 17 - 10:15 AM

Today we pray for: Frank & Alice Hollister

Readings: Jonah 3:10—4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

Prayer of the Day: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday September 27 – Pentecost 18 - 10:15 AM

Today we pray for: Charlie & Michaelanne Hendrixon, Samantha & Elly

Readings: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

Prayer of the Day: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.