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

THE LIGHT

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

October 1, 2026



When Pastor Ogden recently attended the last worship service held at his boyhood church, Rockway Lutheran Church of Springfield, Ohio, he was given the above painting as a gift to Lebanon. The painter, Dr. Walter Lawrence (1931-2011), wrote the following meditation and attached it to the back of his painting, which you can near the altar:

"Behold the Man..." *(John 19:5)*

These words of Pontius Pilate echo to us through the ages as the artist presents a picture of a man about to die. It is not a pleasant picture. Here is a man beaten, discouraged, marked, abused, spat upon, deserted by his friends, ridiculed by his enemies, and finally nailed upon a rough cross of wood. Here he is to die the agonizing death of suffocation by crucifixion. A death reserve reserved for the worst of criminals is now served upon the man, who only a short time before, spent his life in the service to others. The man who made the lame to walk, the blind to see; who healed the lepers and preached the good news of salvation to the poor. The man who performed miracles, who healed hundreds, and who forgave the sins of thousands, is now alone. The man who endured punishment and a temptation is now facing the greatest fear of all - death. This man is the Christ.

This will be no ordinary death. For this man to assume the sins of us all, he must become the true sacrifice. The man, who is in constant communion with God, his Father, must now be cut off, and the relationship ended. Christ must be abandoned by God. God, Himself, must turn his back upon his son. Jesus cries out, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" *(Matthew 27:46)* But all is silent. The communication has ceased. He is truly abandoned and alone.

But even now Christ's love for us continues. In his last act, he continues to teach us the way that we must all seek God - by faith. Jesus cries out with a loud voice "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." *(Mark 15:34)* His final effort is the ultimate act of faith in God.

In a time when commitment to any cause seems rare, we see, by his example, a man who was not above total commitment. "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even the death of the cross." *(Philippians 2:4-8)* It is for our sins that Christ died. It is for us that Christ was beaten and tortured and crucified, so that through him we might be saved. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." *(John 3:16)*

Pastor Doug Ogden

Newsletter from Bishop Julie Schneider-Thompson

Dear Mitten Synod Siblings,

Grace and peace to you. In early August, Bryan, Katie and I went together to the Tyrone Township Hall to vote in Michigan's primary election, following a practice we began as Katie was born. We hoped to teach, by example, that voting was an important part of being a good member of the community. It was a proud moment for us when Katie cast her own ballot as she turned 18 and as she joined us in working the polls.

Many people say that they think politics should be kept out of church. I do understand that sentiment on some levels, especially in this time when our nation is so fractured along policial lines. As a church we find our unity in Jesus, who alone is our head. We are at our best when we remember that and act accordingly! Our allegiance is not to political parties or particular candidates, but to God alone.

However, that is not to say that our faith should not influence our decisions as we choose our political leaders or as we vote on policies and laws that will order our community's life together. I hope that we all stop to think what Jesus is asking of us and measure the candidates and issues against God's vision for this world. After all, each time we pray the Lord's Prayer we ask God, "your will be done on earth as in heaven." We believe that God is very much at work in this world in this moment and we ask God to align us to that work, as God invites us into it.

What does that mean for us beyond prayerfully approaching the way that we vote? Here our faith speaks as well, "Love your neighbor as yourself," calls us to work for the welfare of others in our community. In this election season, it means helping to make sure that all who are eligible to vote get that chance. It means doing what we can to counter misinformation and falsehoods. It means advocating for and protecting the people who work in our polling stations, many of which exist in our church buildings.

There are several resources available to us through the ELCA. Links are below the article. Two things I would particularly lift up. The first is Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry's August monthly message, "A Call to be Trusted Messengers in This Election Season." The other is a six-session study guide "Understanding Faith and Civic Life" which explores the ELCA's social statement on faith and civic life.

Yes, we will grow weary of the unending political ads, sharing half-truths and fear wherever we turn in the next two months. Jesus shows us a better way, one that leads to life for all. Along with the Apostle Paul, I encourage you, "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap and harvest time, if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

In Christ,

+Bishop Julie

- **"A Call to be Trusted Messengers in This Election Season" - Bishop Curry**

https://www.elca.org/news/a-call-to-be-trusted-messengers-in-this-election-season

- **Faith and Civic Life: Advocating for the Well-being of All**

https://resources.elca.org/faith-and-society/civic-life-and-faith/

- **ELCA Advocacy Facebook Page**

https://www.facebook.com/elcaadvocacy

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

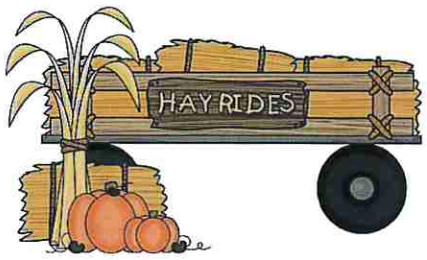
Agenda on the site: Scout Opening Ceremony with flags

Thank Yous and Introductions

Ceremonial Groundbreaking

In the lounge: Potluck dinner with extra pizzas provided

Come Join Us for the Annual Hayride!



Where: Scholl Farms, 5955 Eilers Rd, Montague, MI 49437
When: Sunday October 18th at 4 PM (rain date: October 25th)
Details:
--Bring a (preferably homemade) dish to pass in a glass or metal container and your own NON-DISPOSABLE, NON-PLASTIC plates and utensils.
--There will not be any pulled pork this year so please consider bringing a main dish to the potluck.
--The barn will be open this year for access to tables and electricity! There will be a firepit; please bring your own camp chair.

******Scholl Farms is an organic farm that promotes healthy foods. NO PLASTIC OR DISPOSABLE ITEMS ARE ALLOWED ON THE FARM. Homemade food is strongly encouraged.**

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, 6755 W. Old Channel Trail, Montague, MI 49437
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 Szcerbinski, 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)
John Parks, with health concerns
Bev Statz, with health concerns
Sharon Swenson (Bernie's widow) in rehab in Allen, Texas
Bev Uetricht, 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

10/3 August Frietsch
10/5 Milan Jurik
10/5 Sue Otterman
10/5 Jacob Troy
10/6 Eric Rop
10/6 Linda Schenten
10/6 Ginny Wilkins-King
10/10 Curt Crouch
10/10 Nora Gaiser
10/10 Jennifer Nordberg
10/12 Brian Holmblade
10/12 Bruce Holmblade
10/12 Andreas Holmblade
10/12 Holly Moog
10/17 Shirley Glass
10/19 Carol Deneke
10/19 Rob Montgomery
10/20 Becky Wahr
10/21 Daniel Civis
10/22 Oliver Wyatt
10/23 Tom Fretty
10/25 Meg Eaton
10/25 Karen Hosticka Bruder
10/25 Debbie Svensson
10/27 Finn DeMumbrum
10/29 Stefanie Honoré

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."

10/4 Minnie Estlund
10/10 Charles Xavier Schmalz
10/10 Townes Ernest Vandebunte
10/10 Violet Mae Stacy Chynoweth
10/20 Frank Lundell
10/20 Rachel Wahr Bartlett
10/23 Lauralee Kesteloot
10/29 Pete Fretty
10/29 Megan Nelson
10/30 Cheri Crouch
10/30 Sally Hollister Jackson



Anniversary Blessings



10/5/13 Keith & Mallory Lothschutz
10/5/19 Don & Danielle Jacobs
10/6/12 Corey and Rachel (Wahr) Bartlett
10/7/95 Rocky & Linda Decker
10/8/88 Lee & Debbie Swenson
10/13/84 Don & Kim Nelson
10/26/63 Bob & Sharon Ackerman
10/27 Bill & Ruth Baxter

A Message from our Slovak Intern, Viki

Hi beloved ones!
I arrived home safely in spite of some complications, haha.
Many of you know that this year I´m taking a gap year from my studies to get my health into a better shape - so I'm back in Bratislava -> moving back into my dorm room, planning doctor's appointments, searching for a part time job and planning to apply for my drivers license courses. It looks like I have lots ahead of me, but it's gonna be an adventure. And don't worry I plan to rest as much as possible!

Also I would love to stay in contact with you! My American phone number is not an option anymore tho. The easiest way for me is through an app called WhatsApp where we can text and call for free even through this distance.
You need to add me through my Slovak phone number which is +421 911 776 116. Please text me your name there, so I can add you as well.
If you had any problems with it, contact someone from the congregation - I have a few of you there already.
I also created a group chat with people from Lebanon so I can add you there if you want. I´ve been sending there some info about my travel home and photos from Slovakia.
If Whatsapp is not an option, I have also Facebook where I am called Viktória Balážová, instagram where I am @_balazkaa or my gmail balazovaviktorka12@gmail.com.

I want to thank you so much that I could be a part of the Lebanon family! It's been a huge experience for me and I appreciate every single second ❤.
These 3 months have been life changing for me whether in professional or personal way. Doug is an excellent mentor and an inspiring person and I am very grateful that I could spend this time by his side!
You all were such an amazing community and lots of you inspired and thought me so much more than you may realize.
Thank you so much for everything and until we meet again.

Love you all,
Viki





Worship Notes

Sunday October 4 – Pentecost 19 – 10:15 AM **Today we pray for: Brian and Kara Jaekel**

Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46

Prayer of the Day: Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday October 11 – Pentecost 20 - 10:15 AM **Today we pray for: Mary Lewallen**

Readings: Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

Prayer of the Day: Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday October 18 – Pentecost 21 - 10:15 AM **Today we pray for: Elaine Liska**

Readings: Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13], 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22

Prayer of the Day: Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday October 25 – Reformation Sunday- 10:15 AM **Today we pray for: Art & Sue Plewka**

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46, Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36

Prayer of the Day: Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.