

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,
Craig Satterlee, Bishop
Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop*

**1101 S. Mears Avenue
Whitehall, MI 49461
(231) 893-5745**

Rev. Douglas M. Ogden

Sunday Morning Worship
8:00 am & 10:15 am— Communion
9:00am - Adult Forum

Office Hours
9:00 am—1:00 pm M-F (Margaret)
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm W, Th (Sue)

**Newsletter Editor &
Bulletin Announcements**
Margaret Everling

Church Council

Doug Aardema	Terry Beekman
Curt Crouch	Virginia DeMumbrum
Sheila Fretty	Frank Hollister
Scott Keller	Allan Hinks
Sandy Robbins	Al Wheeler

**“We are baptized members of God’s
Church, forgiven and set free by grace
through faith.**

www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com

**Facebook: Lebanon Lutheran Church
(ELCA)**

Instagram—Twitter : #lcsignsofgrace

THE LIGHT



July 2017

Pastor's Notes

So if Lutherans do not do evangelism by knocking on doors and asking people if they have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal lord and savior, what might Lutheran evangelism look like? I have imagined a few possible conversations, perhaps not as good as ones you have actually had.

Friend: After the big argument we had in our family last Thanksgiving, I don't know if we will ever be all together this summer.

Lutheran: It's hard to see conflict in families and I know you feel it deeply in yours. I believe forgiveness is always possible. Luther said we could joke more, eat drink, sing more, worship together maybe we could find that unity again. And if drinking alcohol is a problem, maybe some colorful non-alcoholic drinks will make them able to talk to each other again and put their fighting behind them.

Friend: when she died so young, we never got over it and I still cry.

Lutheran: it is OK to cry. I am sorry too. You know you can count on me when you feel down. I don't know for sure what it is like when we die, but my faith says death is not the end for her or for you. God has her resurrection for certain, it's yours I am thinking about now.

Friend: Church just doesn't interest me – why do you even go?

Lutheran: well it isn't always entertaining if that's what you mean. But it is about important things. It is about the people I see there. We care about each other, bear one another's burdens, and share each other's joys. And together we do things that bring hope to others who don't come on Sundays. When we sing together, when we take communion together we know we belong together. And have a purpose.

Friend: I think my life is fine without religion.

Continued on Page 13



SCOUT SCHEDULE 2017

WEBELOS II - 1st and 3rd Monday - 7 pm

WOLVES - 1st and 3rd Tuesday - 6:30 pm

TROOP 1048 MEETS WEEKLY AT 5 pm
Pack Meetings held the last Monday of each month

Venture Crew meets 3rd Sunday at 3:30pm

Boy Scout Committee meets 3rd Sunday at 4:30pm, at Fruitland Twp. Park in July and August.

Cub Scout Committee meets 2nd Monday at 7:30pm - Starting in September

Websites of Interest

www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com

www.mittensynod.org

www.elca.org

www.whitelakescouting.com

www.whitelakechorale.com

www.hopescarves.org

LivingLutheran.org



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 in order to maintain privacy and confidentiality. This month in your prayers, please remember:



Prayers for those who are homebound: Our Minister

Ken & Mary Bernhardt, at home.
Marcia Eyler, at home (of St. Alban Episcopal)
Bob and Vera Green, Green Acres Assisted Living, Mt. Pleasant
Lois Hildebrandt, at Bush Creek (Marlene Holmstrom)
Nancy Peterson, at Heartland , Room #415
Velma Roesler, at White Lake Assisted Living Center
Gini Kaines, (Michele Wheeler's mother), at Heartland, (Donna Stacy)
Ruth Nurmi, at home
Bernie Weidner, at Sanctuary of the Oaks.
Mike Szczerbinski, with health concerns

Special Prayer Concerns:

Theresa Eastman, (Diane Eastman's sister-in-law), benign brain tumor.
Barb Gelvin, shoulder replacement surgery on June 26th.
Liz Hildenstein, (Barb Aardema's relative), declared cancer free in early June.
Juanita Holmblade, recuperating from an auto accident 3/1.
Philip Holmblade, (Brian Holmblade's brother), with health concerns.
Sharon Honoré, with health concerns
Jim Ingemanson, currently in ICU in Crystal Lake, IL with complications from pneumonia and leukemia.
Lauren Kerkstra, (Darrel and Jeanette Otto's granddaughter), recovering slowly, able to walk and take commands. Remains non-verbal . Baby born healthy on June 5.
Jim Kienke, aggressive cancer. (Rick Hughes' brother-in-law)
Lara MacGregor, with health concerns.
Leah, 42, (daughter-in-law of Barb Aardema's classmate) advanced colon cancer.
Lorraine (Rick Hughes' mother). in Heartland.
Rana & Kareema Majeed, at home preparing to return to Iraq.
Pete & Jennie Palmer, with health concerns.
Hazel Palmer, with health concerns.
Tim Schrand, (Virginia DeMumbrum's brother), battling a very aggressive cancer, and her other brother in a car accident.
Jane Siedenstrang, diagnosed with breast cancer.



Worship Notes

Sunday, July 2 - Pentecost 4

Musician: Liturgy Instruments Group

Readings

Color: Green

Sermon:

*Spacious skies have
enough room for all.*

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.

Sunday, July 9- Pentecost 5

Musician: Monica Odgen

Readings

Color: Green

Sermon:

"It's all about the grace"

Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday, July 16 - Pentecost 6

Musician: Ardy Bulthouse

Readings

Color: Green

Sermon:

There is no condemnation

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Sunday, July 23 - Pentecost 7

Musician: Monica Ogden

Readings

Color: Green

Sermon:

"Hope is a straining forward"

Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, July 30 - Pentecost 8

Musician : Carol Rienstra

Readings

Color : Green

Sermon:

"What are you convinced to be true?"

1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

July Birthdays



7/1 Molly Crouch Mooren	7/7 Helen Workman	7/16 Judy Kurtz
7/2 Zoe Courneya	7/8 Donna Frietsch	7/17 Joel Fretty
7/2 Frank Lundell Jr.	7/9 Tyler Grover	7/18 Brooke Otto
7/3 Raegan Murphy	7/9 Michael Palmer	7/22 Terry Beekman
7/3 Reilly Murphy	7/10 Robert Ackerman	7/23 Jennifer Fretty
7/3 Rhonda Sweet	7/10 Caryn Koster	7/26 Matthew Everitt
7/4 David Civis	7/11 Lindsey Schenten	7/27 Mackenzie Fretty
7/4 Barbara Gelvin	7/12 Rick Hughes	7/28 Bob Ferrentino
7/4 Eric Johnson	7/13 Mitchell Foster	7/31 Patricia DeNicolò
7/4 Drew Roesler	7/13 Emily Snell Glass	
7/5 Jeffrey Griswold	7/16 Cindy Frale	
7/5 Michelle Wheeler	7/16 Morgan Hughes	
7/6 Kenneth Bernhardt		
7/6 Diane Eastman		

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL CARILLON CONCERT SERIES

SUMMER 2017

Hear the music of the bells performed throughout the summer by renowned carillonneurs at two locations.



23rd ANNUAL
Cook Carillon International Concert Series

SUNDAYS AT 8 P.M.
JUNE 25–AUGUST 20, 2017
ALLENDALE CAMPUS

June 25 Amy Johansen, Australia

July 2 *Open tower,
Julianne Vanden Wyngaard,
GVSU Host

July 9 James Fackenthal, Chicago, Illinois

July 16 Sharon Hettinger, Lawrence, Kansas

July 23 David Johnson, St. Paul, Minnesota

July 30 Laura Ellis, University of Florida

August 6 Sue Bergren, Naperville, Illinois

August 13 Ray McLellan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

August 20 Julianne Vanden Wyngaard,
Grand Valley State University

*Begins at 7 p.m.

17th ANNUAL
Beckering Family Carillon International Concert Series

WEDNESDAYS AT NOON
JULY 5–AUGUST 2, 2017
LACKS INTERNATIONAL PLAZA AT
RICHARD M. DEVOS CENTER
ROBERT C. PEW GRAND RAPIDS CAMPUS

July 5 Carol Jickling Lens, University of Denver

July 12 James Fackenthal, Chicago, Illinois

July 19 Helen Hawley, Grand Rapids, Michigan

July 26 Jon Lehrer, Vancouver, British Columbia

August 2 Julianne Vanden Wyngaard,
Grand Valley State University



GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND DANCE

FREE OPEN-AIR CONCERTS
Call (616) 331-3484 or visit www.gvsu.edu/music for more information.

Baptism Anniversaries



7/2 Eric Nelson
7/2 Drake Otto
7/2 Jay R. Otto
7/8 Monica Ogden

7/12 Arin Snell Bowen
7/14 Carla Nessa
7/19 Kelsey Fretty
7/21 Peter Damm

7/23 Brianna Clark
7/29 Marlene Holmstrom
7/30 Gina Holmblade

Celebrate your baptism anniversary with a candle a meal or 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 in to Christ.”



7/1/16 Daniel and Arin Bowen
7/2/88 William & Kathy Scarbrough
7/6/74 Al & Michelle Wheeler
7/11/78 Jim & Stephanie Emms

7/19/69 Brian & Juanita Holmblade
7/20/02 Jeremy & Kerri Bernhardt
7/22/78 Mike & Lois Szczerbinski
7/28/49 Ken & Mary Bernhardt
7/30/11 Charles & Sally Jackson

News & Notes



NO FOOD PANTRY THE MONTH OF JULY! WE WILL RE-OPEN AUGUST 2ND!

No Potluck / Bible Study until July 26th at the Rooster!

July 15 the Heritage park Native American Pow-Wow. We will take Michaela to it; if you have any events you would like to invite her to, or trips you are taking, schedule it with John Parks or Pastor Ogden. You might want to see the Pow-Wow yourself. Her Birthday is July 22nd!

The Church Council has contracted to remove our chimney to the roof line sometime this summer, and to rebuild the shelf in the kitchen for the new coffee makers.

Dakota King and the Central Michigan University players will be performing at the Howmet Playhouse on July 13-15. We will plan on going as a Lebanon group.

Summer plays begin :

<u>JULY</u>	6-8 -	The Seamstress
	13-15 -	CMU
	20-22	Birds
	27-29	The Youth Theater

<u>AUGUST</u>	2-5	Fox on the Fairway
	17-19	Exit Laughing



Now is the time to make sure the church office has your updated information. Please let Margaret or Sue know of any changes to your address, phone number, or email address. In order to keep you informed, we need to have your correct information on file. Thank You!



**North/
West Lower
Michigan Synod**

**2900 N. Waverly Rd.
Lansing, MI 48906**

517-321-5066

In this Issue:

Assistant to the Bishop Letter

**Six Ways to Keep Your
Church's Momentum Going
This Summer**

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

Assistant to the Bishop for Synod Life

When at the close of the liturgy for my installation as Assistant to the Bishop for Synod Life, Bishop Satterlee asked if I wanted to make any remarks I was so moved by the Holy Spirit's presence and work that I could not speak. Most of you do not yet know me, but trust me when I say that this call truly caught me by surprise! For more than 30 years, my sense of call has been anchored in parish ministry – it has been work that I have loved. So as I close my ministry as transitional pastor at Advent Lutheran Church in Lake Ann, I am grieving the patterns of preaching, teaching, pastoral care and leadership that have given structure to my days and months and years.

I am discovering that my new call has patterns of preaching, teaching, pastoral care and leadership too. What is different is the size and geography of my parish! Long ago, I adopted a practice of praying for church members as I drove or walked through their neighborhoods. I prayed for the children, teachers and administrators of our local schools as I passed them. I prayed for city leaders and fire-fighters as I passed their offices or heard their sirens. Friday, as my husband Craig and I made our way down US 31, I realized that I had begun praying for our pastors and congregations in Ludington, New Era, Whitehall and Muskegon. My parish may be larger in square miles, but some of the practices that nurtured my people and me in the parish will serve every bit as well in this new ministry setting. I look forward to praying for you and with you as I discover your ministry sites on the map and make my way to visit you.

At the same time, I see this new call as an opportunity to make some thoughtful and intentional changes in my daily rhythms. I confess that I have neglected regular exercise lately – and so it will become a thrice weekly habit that I write into my calendar. I also need to be reasonable about the amount of time that it takes to drive to meetings – and allow time to get out of the car to

stretch, eat and drink as needed. No more eating in the car on the way! Please, hold me accountable to these commitments I am making – ask me about how I am doing with them. Caring for myself as I accept this call and its requirements is a form of prayer for me.

How can I say that? In her book, *Traveling Mercies*, Anne Lamott notes that there are really only two prayers we humans utter: "Help me, help me!" and "Thank you, thank you!" They are the two prayers I find myself uttering again and again as I answer this call. "Help me be a faithful representative of Christ Jesus in whatever I am called to do here." "Thank you for the privilege of this ministry and for your unwavering presence and guidance as I do my best to carry it out."

Speaking of prayer – I am really looking forward to the "You Matter" Day for our pastors and deacons on Tuesday, July 18th at Faith Lutheran Church in Saginaw! Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Bishop Mike Rinehart is our presenter, and the day's events and meals are completely funded by Portico Wellness dollars the synod has received for nurturing health and wholeness in its rostered ministers. Bishop Mike writes: "Ministry can be exhausting. Prayer is a well from which we quench our thirst for the journey." He will be inviting us to think about how we pray in different seasons of our lives and offering various forms of prayer to renew us in our faith and life. Please take time right now to register for this one-day event at <http://bit.ly/2sm9JXU>. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

May you live this and every day in God's amazing grace,

Pastor Chrysanne Timm, Assistant to the Bishop for Synod Life



Swedish Smörgåsbord



Lebanon Lutheran Church
1101 S. Mears Avenue
Whitehall
Thursday, July 6, 2017

5:00 & 6:30 p.m. seatings
Adults \$12.00 Children 5-10 \$6.00



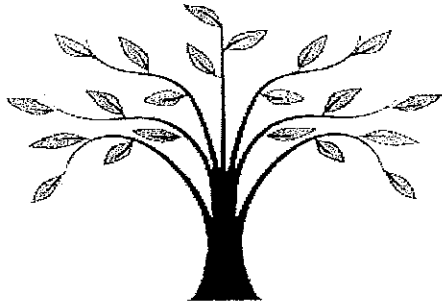
Michaela (Miška) is a third year student at Evanjelická bohoslovecká fakulta – Univerzita Komenského in Bratislava. She is from the town of Košice, which is approximately 8 miles north of the Slovak/Hungarian border, in the eastern part of Slovakia.

Her interests include youth ministry and social fellowship. She spends her spare time making crafts and making friends, both of which she enjoys. Michaela is certain of her vocation in the Ministry. She is looking forward to being able to spend this opportunity with your congregation, and hopes to discover new perceptions of the Lutheran Church. She is most excited to be able to experience a new culture, and observe the differences between American church culture and Slovak church at home.

2017 Slovak Seminarian

Miska arrived on June 29th!

Branching Out



Day Camp

Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 S. Mears, Whitehall MI

July 17-21

Preschool—7th Grade

Last grade completed

Register online at lebanonlutheranchurch.com

or call the office (231) 893-5745

Drivers are needed for DayCamp transportation to the pool and various activities. Please contact Allie Ogden at 231-730-1584, if you are able to volunteer and she will coordinate a schedule. Thank you!

YES! I WOULD BE HAPPY TO COVER THE COST FOR A
CHILD OR FAMILY TO ATTEND DAY CAMP AT LEBANON
LUTHERAN CHURCH!

I am enclosing:

_____ \$30(one child) _____ \$60(one family)

_____ Other (\$_____)

From: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT!

Introductory Spanish class for the Oceana Hispanic Center this July.

The class will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 at New Hope Community Church, one mile north of Shelby.

We will meet the second and fourth weeks of July, the dates being July 11, 13, 25, and 27.

The fee for the class is \$75, paid in advance, and includes materials. If you have friends or family who might be interested they are welcome & Pastor Ogden will drive anyone interested there. They can email me at priscillatait@gmail.com for further information on how to register.

(Continued from Page 1)

Lutheran: It seems to be. That's worth being thankful for, and sometimes people forget and take the good things for granted. I like having the opportunity to really be thankful every Sunday. It's a throw-away culture, and we forget what really matters sometimes.

Friend: Isn't religion behind all the wars and violence throughout history?

Lutheran: Sometimes I do feel like the faith I care about has been highjacked. It's true the loudest voices in religion are voices I don't even recognize. I try not to listen to the loudest voices. I like to listen to the still, small voices. That's where I hear about grace.

Friend: The Bible's stories are unbelievable – magic trees, talking snakes, miraculous cures, people coming back to life, like the walking dead. It's ridiculous.

Lutheran: storytellers in ancient times used all kinds of ways to express themselves. What I put my trust in is the part about Christ on the cross. I see a lot of my life and maybe yours too, in that story, and when Christ helped others, even gave his life for others, I see a lot of your life too. That's the part that gives me hope.

Friend: I don't like all the rules religions make people do.

Lutheran: me either. Let me tell you what Luther said (more or less) about 500 years ago. I still hold onto this: I believe I cannot by working for it or thinking about it come to Jesus Christ or know him as my Lord. But here we are, you and I, having this conversation about important, even holy things, in our lives that are truly gifts. And even when I question my faith or some of the actions even by my own denomination, I am drawn even deeper into the story. And now you and I and this time together is a part of that story, and all the conversations I hope we keep having.

Friend: You have it all together. Not me. I don't belong in church.

Lutheran: No, I don't, but having a god means all the things I normally worry about take second place, and at least I don't get totally upset when I don't get it all right. I do make a mess of things sometimes, but I do get to start over again, or ask to be forgiven. Sometimes I have to work extra hard to make it up to someone I've disappointed. It does take courage, and I know you get that. It also takes some faith, hope and love, and I know I am loved. I know it sounds strange, but this is most certainly true.

Friend: I don't know much about the bible or anything. I'd be lost.

Lutheran: I'd like to have you go with me, as we sit together I can help you with the book stuff. But I think you'd get a lot out the message, the songs, the stories, and even the prayers. I'll introduce you to my friends, and along the way you'll be introduced to a Jesus that's about gracious and hope and encouragement. Maybe a Jesus you've never heard about. Let's give it a try.

These may not be the best evangelism moments you've heard or had yourself. There is no right technique, just the honest conversation between friends that reveals the heart of God, which is the presence of Christ in our midst. I look forward to your stories about your encounters.



Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 South Mears Avenue
Whitehall, MI 49461

Living in God's Amazing Grace

The Light is published monthly by Lebanon Lutheran Church, 1101 S. Mears Avenue, Whitehall, MI 49461. Submissions are accepted through the 15th of each month. Submissions **MUST** include your name and a way to contact you in case of questions.

2 ways to submit your information:

- yellow folder in Margaret's office
(better)
- office@lebanonlutheranchurch.com
(best)



The Church office will be closed on July 4th!