

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

THE LIGHT



January 2019

Lebanon Evangelical Lutheran Church

*A Congregation of the North/West Lower
Michigan Synod, of the ELCA
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

Curt Crouch
Virginia DeMumbrum
Meg Eaton
Frank Hollister
Alan Hinks
Al Wheeler
Sheila Pretty
Scott Keller
Kay Snell

**“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 : #llcsignsofgrace

Pastor’s Notes

What do we say to our friends who wonder why we go to church?

What do we say to our friends who are turned off by news of the priest scandal, by the angry rhetoric from “the religious right, by the anti-science approach to important issues like climate change and the environment, about race and gay and lesbian people?

I belong to the people called Lebanon Lutheran because it gives me hope.

We draw a particular message from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus that is grace-filled, life affirming.

It is my goal to invite others into what we do and care about and at the same time discovering what others care about and seeing how we can help.

Love changes people, and once in a while we get to see how it changes those around us, and once in a while we get to tell how it has changed us.

For me the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus makes me hungry & homeless, lonely & lost, children, refugees, abused and elderly, those disparaged by others and put down by society. Love changes people, and brings them back to life.

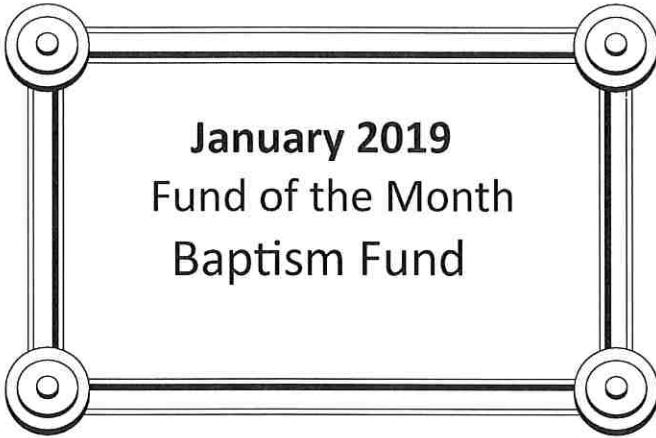
Everybody has something to offer and a privilege to discover their passions and put the resources of our church to use.

And we get to discover a Christ already at work, bringing down the dividing wall of hostility & bringing peace.

Thank you Lutherans for letting me do that with you for all these years.

Merry Christmas season and Happy New Year!

Pastor Ogden



Websites of Interest

www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com

www.mittensynod.org

www.elca.org

www.whitelakescouting.com

www.whitelakechorale.com

www.hopescarves.org

LivingLutheran.org

Scout Schedule— 2019

Each Sunday at 5:00 pm

Webelos II -	Mondays at 6:00 pm
Webelos I -	Mondays at 6:00 pm
Bears -	Tuesdays at 6:30 pm
Wolves -	Mondays at 6:00 pm
Tigers -	Mondays at 7:00 pm
Lions -	Every 3rd Monday at 6:00 pm

Girl Scouts : Each Thursday - 4:30pm-7pm

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

Mary Bernhardt, Robinswood Assisted Living #115 (Kay Snell)
Marcia Eyler, at home (of St. Alban Episcopal)
Vera Green, Green Acres Assisted Living, Mt. Pleasant (Lora Swenson)
Lois Hildebrandt, at Bush Creek
Rozella Holmstrom, at home .
Nancy Peterson, at Heartland , Room #415
Velma Roesler, at White Lake Assisted Living Center, #4
Gini Kaines, (Michele Wheeler's mother), Under Hospice care at Heartland, (Donna Stacy)
Ruth Nurmi, at home
Bernie Weidner, at Sanctuary of the Oaks. (Danielle Johnson)
Mike Szczerbinski, with health concerns at home

Special Prayer Concerns:

Tracey Allen, (Roger Silk's cousin) diagnosed with terminal brain cancer
Helen Bartlett, At home recovering from a mini stroke.
Nate Bernhardt, health concerns. Going for 2nd opinions
Jennifer Snowden Bossi, 34, (Ardy Bulthouses' granddaughter) diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.
Shirley Claeys, health issues, constant pain.
Mike Crouch, (Curt Crouchs brother) diagnosed with cancer.
Jo Ellen Francis, (Laura Hollister's sister) testing for neurological issues.
Jake Z., (nephew of Penny Gorbach) on 2nd round of chemo & radiation for mass by an artery.
Barb Gelvin, recuperating from hip surgery in Florida. Surgery went well
Marlene Holmstrom, with back spasms
Lorrin Jordahl, (Kristine Jordahl's father) with congestive heart failure
Lauren Kerkstra, (Darrel and Jeanette Otto's granddaughter), recovering slowly, able to walk and take commands. Remains non-verbal .
Amy Jean Knorr, (Brian Holmblade's aunt) with health concerns. 101 years old in November.
Dick Knoth, with health concerns in Washington State
Lara MacGregor, Living life over metastatic breast cancer. New cancer site found.
Lana Myers, with health concerns, at home.
Tim Schrand, (Virginia DeMumbrum's brother), battling a very aggressive cancer.
Bev Statz, recuperating after a fall.
Kathleen Wagner, at home recuperating from pneumonia.
Brittany, Rob and Kennedy Wahr, Kennedy remains in the hospital but is improving and up to 9# .
Donna Will, at home, getting stronger every day.
Our hearts grieve with Don and Shawn Erwin, whose son Scott, passed away on Tuesday, December 11th. No arrangements are known .



Worship Notes

Sunday, January 6 - Epiphany of Our Lord

Musician: Monica Ogden at 8:00am

Readings

Color: White

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Prayer of the Day

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sunday, January 13 - Baptism of Our Lord

Musician: Monica Ogden

Readings

Color: White

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, January 20 - Epiphany 2

Musician: Ardy Bulthouse

Readings

Color: Green

ANNUAL MEETING

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

**Baptism of Oliver Basil
Wyatt**

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, January 27 - Epiphany 3

Musician: Monica Ogden

Color: Green

Readings

Installation of new officers

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Prayer of the Day

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



January



1/1 Julie Johnson
1/2 John Parks
1/3 Marsha Hulce
1/3 Barbara Brooks
1/4 Jacob R. Brooks
1/5 Jim Coddington
1/5 Robert Eklund
1/5 Laura Hollister
1/5 Katherine Lathrop
1/5 Luke Thompson
1/6 John Lathrop
1/6 Scott Veeder
1/7 John Lundell
1/8 Stephanie Larson
1/9 Glenn Eaton
1/10 Sandy Coddington
1/10 Alexandra Kesteloot
1/10 Ann Nessa
1/10 Sarah O'Donnell
1/11 Lynda Lauterberg
1/11 Randy Nurmi
1/13 Kerry Fretty
1/14 Steve Albert
1/16 Jeffrey Baker
1/16 Al Wheeler

1/17 JoAnne Silk
1/18 Linda Decker
1/19 Mary Bernhardt
1/19 Marjie Bronsink
1/20 Becky Bronsink
1/20 John Hildebrandt
1/20 Doug Ogden
1/20 Kathy Scarbrough
1/22 Helen Bartlett
1/22 Richard Carlson
1/22 Nancy Dahl
1/23 Gabe DeMumbrum
1/23 Laura Schnepf
1/25 Virginia Foster
1/25 Traci Murphy
1/26 Ann Snow
1/27 Taylor Hughes
1/27 Erin Wendell
1/28 Barb Aardema
1/28 Bill Cloutier, Jr.
1/30 Joel Newsted
1/30 Dwight Roesler
1/31 Joe Ferrentino



1/19/02 Michael & Kathleen Palmer

Thank You to everyone who welcomed Bishop and Cathy Satterlee to Lebanon on December 16. And to Ethan who brought him cookies.

Baptism Anniversaries



1/1 Diane Eastman	1/9 Scott Lamiman	1/25 Lisa Holmblade
1/1 Gretchen Lane	1/10 Mitch Foster	1/27 David Pearson
1/2 Carley Smercina	1/11 Donna Jensen	1/30 Bev Veeder
1/3 James Will	1/18 Dawn Baker	1/30 Gary Holmstrom
1/7 Matthew Ferguson	1/18 Nathan Parker	
1/9 Joshua Cloutier	1/23 Tyler Grover	
	1/24 Kristin Wolffis	

On Christmas Eve we baptized Sophia Grace Jaekel, and on January 20th, we baptize Oliver Basil Wyatt.

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.”

New Address:

Kathleen Wagner has a new address: 17 Oak Street
Blackwood, NJ 08012
kathleenwagner@sprintmailcom

I miss you and all my friends at Lebanon. Have been warmly welcomed in Paul's (Presbyterian) church. (Back to my roots!)

Beat the pneumonia and feeling better - but OLD!

Much Love,
Kathleen Wagner

Congratulations to Arin and Dan Bowen on their recent announcement!



Rick and Holly Hughes announce that their daughter Taylor and Jonah Ogles will have a baby girl



Thank You Wayne Roesler for fixing the Church Register for us!

Thank You for all the wonderful donations for our Christmas baskets. We packed and delivered 18 baskets.

Thank you to John and Irene Parks, Danielle Johnson, Barb Aardema, Deb Statz, and Wayne Roesler for packing and delivering the baskets.
Sue Roesler

A HUGE Thank You to Barb Aardema for making calls and her editing skills on our latest directory.

Also, **Thank you to Sue Roesler** for making calls for both of us for correct information.

Thank you everyone for submitting your photos and updating our records so we could put out a current directory.

My apologies to Bob and Sharon Ackerman whose photo was inadvertently omitted during a copy machine issue.

This is the Stollen cake we all enjoyed after worship December 16. It is an annual gift from our German friends.

Dear friends of Lebanon Lutheran Church, once again we are close to this time of the year, when we prepare for the Holy season of Advent and the following Christmas. And once again we want to share the gift of the new born king with a little sweet celebration of our Dresden traditional Christmas cake... the real Dresdner Christstollen. We truly hope you will enjoy it again and stay in thoughts and prayers with us as long friends of the congregation. Maybe we'll see each other next year because we're preparing for our holidays in the US 2019. We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2019, With kind regards, Your Familie Andre und Claudia Richter from Dresden, Germany

Carol Norwick has gone to Chico, California, another volunteer trip with the Red Cross to help people in shelters after the wild fires there. They are also dealing with Norovirus. She returns on January 1st.

Barb Gelvin had hip replacement on December 18 in Florida and is healing.

Ann Nessa had hip replacement surgery in December in New York and is reported to be doing fine.

Pastor Ogden had mentioned to a few people he might need shoulder surgery. After meeting with the surgeon, he does not, but has a page of exercises to do to un-freeze it.



**North/
West Lower
Michigan Synod**

2900 N. Waverly Rd.
Lansing, MI 48906

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In this Issue:

Rostered Minister
Indebtedness

Partners in Mission

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

Rostered Minister Indebtedness

At its December 8 meeting, Synod Council approved a plan to begin to address the burden of seminary education debt born by many of our rostered ministers—pastors and deacons. Our plan is to annually award as many \$2000 grants as possible directly to lending institutions for educational debt to be applied to the principal of a rostered minister's seminary student loans. We are advised that \$2000 is the minimum amount that will have a lasting impact. A link to the full plan is at the end of this letter.

To qualify to receive a grant, pastors and deacons will be in their first 10 years of ministry (since student loans are theoretically paid off in that time), commit to serving full-time in our synod for the three years following receipt of a grant, agree to participate in personal financial literacy education and/or counseling, and complete the application process on time. In the coming days, I will reach out via email to synod pastors and deacons in their first 10 years of service and invite them to apply.

Rostered minister indebtedness is an issue very near to my heart. In my experience—as a graduate student myself and then as a seminary professor—seminarians take on student loans not so much to pay tuition as to be able to live as students. Cathy and I took out student loans while I was a doctoral student at Notre Dame to pay for health insurance for our family. I will never get over the day when, as Dean of the Chapel at LSTC, I realized that, in addition to maintaining a food bank for our neighbors in the Hyde Park community, our chapel offerings needed to fund a food pantry for our students because some of them were going without regular meals.

When I visited Luther Seminary a month ago, I learned that, at Luther, average student indebtedness is \$62,000. Unlike other professions, it is more challenging for pastors and deacons to repay their student loans because of the compensation pastors and deacons receive.

Indebtedness impacts pastors and deacons in several ways. Again, from Luther Seminary:

- 52% of pastors surveyed say loans negatively impacted their standard of living.
- 30% of pastors surveyed are bi-vocational.
- 26% of pastors surveyed left ministry due to financial pressure.
- 25% of pastors surveyed pursue higher paying ministry opportunities.
- 24% of pastors surveyed postpone healthcare.

As bishop, I experience the impact of rostered minister indebtedness in pastors who are open to serving in our Synod and intrigued by some of our smaller congregations but determine they cannot enter into the call process because of the burden of indebtedness. I am grateful that this is happening less as we adjust our compensation guidelines upward. I am even more grateful that our Synod Council decided to join many other synods in addressing rostered minister indebtedness.

I am excited that we have already raised \$2600 for this effort, so we know we will be able to award at least one \$2000 grant this year. \$1200 of this money is from a grant. Christ Lutheran in Wyoming did as Synod Council and I requested and designated the offering from Pastor Justin Walker's installation to this purpose and donated \$900. Cathy and I are committing \$500 above our regular giving to the Synod. I would love to raise \$4000 and award two grants this year. If you are looking to make an unexpected gift this Christmas season, I invite you to send a gift to our Synod designated for rostered minister debt reduction.

I know that some of you expected to find a Christmas message in this space. I will be preaching a Christmas message for rostered ministers at worship and luncheon in our Lansing office on December 19 and again at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Lansing on Christmas Eve. I don't want to give it away too early, especially as I am intentionally observing Advent. Here, I will simply say that you are in my heart and prayers this Christmas season. I pray that you experience Christ born anew in a tradition you cherish as surely as Jesus comes to us in Word, water, bread, and wine. For Christ was born for you!

Felix Dies Nativitatis!

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, PhD, Bishop

The complete Seminary Debt Assistance Plan and application can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2LGlCtA>



Dear Mr. Hollister
 & heabon. hatain chun
 Your generous donation
 makes it possible for the
 warm blankets & pants for
 the needy students + students
 who have gotten wet, cold, during
 our long winter.

You helped make a big impact in our community.

They are much appreciated
 & thank you for your
 part in our schools.
 Many Blessings, the
 Montague Ave Childhood Center



Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 South Mears Avenue
Whitehall, MI 49461

Living in God's Amazing Grace

**The Church Office will be closed
on Tuesday, January 1st, 2019.
Our Food Pantry will be open
on Wednesday, January 2nd**

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)

**ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2019**

