

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

THE LIGHT



January 2020

Pastor's Notes

Each New Year comes with challenges and opportunities. Twenty-twenty is upon us with both challenges and opportunities, the kind we could not imagine a few years ago. And because it is called 20-20, it compels us to want to see better, perceive better, wish that we knew how best to meet those challenges.

The Lutheran Way of living in the world has gone from being one of the majority voices of our culture to being a voice of the minority in just a generation — a dissenting, vibrant, persistent voice.

As Emma said so well December 15, we have a deep and rich musical presence, and we seek the challenge to make it a even more valued in 2020.

We are deeply involved in our community — see the new “Coming Soon” sign for the scout house.

We are deeply involved in our nation — we support foster kids, and seniors through Samaritas with health kits, Color Tour Luncheon, and thanks to Tommy Foster, sending Foster Kids to Camp.

We are involved in our world through support for refugees, disaster response, World Relief, and for the 3rd year in a row we celebrate our congregational anniversary with a \$1,000 gift for a pair of oxen and a plow to Lutheran World Relief

Our biggest challenges is inviting others into the things we care about. Our music, our service, our camaraderie. It is often through the involvement with those outside our life together we discover the presence of a Christ on the move.

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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 Sheila Fretty
Frank Hollister Scott Keller
Alan Hinks Kay Snell
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 : #llesignsofgrace

**January 2020
Fund of the Month
Baptism Fund**



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

Webelos 2 - Mondays @ 6:30pm

Bears - Mondays @ 6:30pm

Webelos - Tuesdays @ 6pm
Todd Bowen—231-206-3729

Tigers - 1st and 3rd Monday @ 6:30pm
Julianna Grabbenstetter - 231-670-4680

Wolves - Mondays @ 6:30pm
Lewis Sibley - 231-292-6129

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

Helen Bartlett, At home recovering from a mini stroke.
Mary Bernhardt, Robinswood Assisted Living #115 (Kay Snell)
Marcia Eyler, at home (of St. Alban Episcopal)
Lois Hildebrandt, at Bush Creek
Nancy Peterson, at Heartland , Room #415
Velma Roesler, at White Lake Assisted Living Center, #24
Bernie Weidner, at Sanctuary of the Oaks. (Danielle Jacobs)
Mike Szczerbinski, at home.

Special Prayer Concerns:

Joanne Anderson, (Cindy Albert's sister) diagnosed with breast cancer.
Tracey Allen, (Roger Silk's cousin) diagnosed with terminal brain cancer
Terry Beekman, cancer has returned
Virginia Beekman, under Hospice care after stroke
Jennifer Snowden Bossi, 34, (Ardy Bulthouses' granddaughter) diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.
Mary Carmany, (Elaine Liska's sister) infection from itching
Adrienne Clahassey, facing more back surgery.
Tony DeNicolo, receiving cancer treatment
Martha Dolle, (Elaine Liska's neighbor) fell & in the hospital.
Ken Doran, (Margaret Everling's father) with health concerns
Jo Ellen Francis, (Laura Hollister's sister) diagnosed with Parkinsons.
Marlene Holmstrom, with back spasms
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) 102 years old and recovered well from hip fracture.
Donna Knoth, with heart issues.
Julie Lanning, (Sandy Robbin's mother) @ McCauley after stroke
Linda Lamoreaux, recuperating at home after heart surgery.
Jennie Lance, surgery for breast cancer.
Lara MacGregor, Living life over metastatic breast cancer. New cancer site found.
Dwight Mead (Paula Moreau's brother-in-law), non-hodgkin lymphoma mantel type (stage four).
Payton Silk, going to Sports Medicine Specialist/Surgeon for 2nd opinion on recurrent knee injury.
Bernie Swenson, (Lora Swenson's brother), doing better after cancer treatment.
Sharon Swenson, (Lora Swenson's sister-in-law), in therapy after stroke.
Tammy, (Wietse & Melanie Schaafsma's step-daughter), undergoing treatment for breast cancer that metastasized to her brain and lungs & diagnosed with stage IV kidney failure.
Cheryl Whelan (friend of Doug and Barb Aardema) undergoing clinical trial for cancer that has returned.
Donna Will, following up with injections in her neck.



Worship Notes

Sunday, January 5 - Epiphany Sunday

Musician: Liturgy Instruments

Readings

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Color: White

The Magi arrive to complete the Christmas Story.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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 12 - Baptism of Our Lord

Musician: Aeden McCauley

Readings

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Color: White

“This is my beloved, Child with whom I am well pleased.”

Prayer of the Day

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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 19 - Second Sunday after Epiphany

Musician: Ardy Bulthouse

Readings

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Color: Green

Another image of Baptism
is Jesus as Lamb of God.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, January 26

Musician: Monica Ogden

**Annual Meeting &
Potluck**

Readings

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Color: Green

We fish for people, but also
remind them they are already
caught in God's net of love &
acceptance.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



January



1/2 John Parks
1/3 Marsha Hulce
1/3 Barbara Brooks
1/4 Jacob R. Brooks
1/5 Robert Eklund
1/5 Laura Hollister
1/5 Luke Thompson
1/6 John Lathrop
1/6 Scott Veeder
1/7 John Lundell
1/9 Glenn Eaton
1/10 Alexandra Kesteloot
1/10 Ann Nessa
1/11 Lynda Lauterberg
1/11 Randy Nurmi
1/13 Kerry Fretty
1/14 Jone Benedict
1/14 Steve Albert
1/16 Al Wheeler

1/17 JoAnne Silk
1/19 Mary Bernhardt
1/20 Doug Ogden
1/20 Kathy Scarbrough
1/22 Helen Bartlett
1/22 Richard Carlson
1/22 Nancy Dahl
1/23 Gabe DeMumbrum
1/25 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 Dwight Roesler
1/31 Joe Ferrentino



1/19/02 Michael & Kathleen Palmer

Baptism Anniversaries



1/1 Diane Eastman
1/1 Wiestse Schaafsma
1/1 Melanie Schaafsma
1/3 James Will
1/9 Joshua Cloutier
1/10 Mitch Foster
1/18 Dawn Baker
1/20 Oliver Wyatt
1/23 Tyler Grover
1/25 Lisa Holmblade
1/27 David Pearson
1/30 Bev Veeder
1/30 Gary Holmstrom



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.”

This month’s Emphasis of the Month is our Baptismal Fund. Every time we have a child baptism, we set aside \$250 as seed money in that child’s name, so that when they are older and still active in our congregation, they have the funds for some kind of global mission experience.

Ethan Bowen, Abigail and Jonathon Bartlett, Charles Schmalz, Tobias Lothschutz, Elara De-Mumbrum, Oliver Wyatt and Sophia Jaekel are current recipients.



North/West Lower Michigan Synod

2900 N. Waverly Rd.
Lansing, MI 48906

517-321-5066

In this Issue:

We Are All Shepherds

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

We Are All Shepherds

As I submit this newsletter article, I anticipate the arrival of 40 rostered ministers and friends at the Lansing office for Christmas worship, lunch, and the installation of Pastor Rosanne Anderson as Assistant to the Bishop. I am praying that the weather cooperates so everyone can come; by the time you read this article, you will know how effective my prayers are. If you were on hand for the celebration on Wednesday, you need not read further because you heard what I have to say in greater detail.

I am nervous about people regarding pastors, deacons, and bishops— and especially me—as shepherds. I hear Jeremiah prophesying, “Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord” (23:2). I’m mindful that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11-18), and that I am a hired hand who has once or twice run away when the wolf comes. Then, this Christmas, because of Pastor Rosanne’s installation, I re-met the shepherds in Luke’s account of Jesus’ birth. And it occurred to me that we are all shepherds.

As Luke tells the story, the shepherds receive enormous good news that God has done and is doing something great. They head off to check it out and, when they find that what they’ve been told is true, they inform the holy family—Mary and Joseph. They tell the very people who received God’s promise that God has and is fulfilling it. Mary must’ve needed to hear it, because Luke tells us she pondered the shepherds’ words in her heart.

Telling people who have received God’s promise that God has and is fulfilling it is so very different from convincing and converting; it is celebrating and ensuring. It is what our children do in their Christmas plays. They tell us, who have received God’s promise, that God is and will fulfill God’s promise. All of us who have been born into the life of Christ through baptism can tell someone who has received God’s promise that God has and is keeping it. In this way, we are all shepherds.

In the 10 days remaining in Advent, perhaps we might ask God to send an angel to reveal to us the one to whom God would have us declare this good news of great joy this Christmas. “God is keeping God’s promise to you, and here is how I see it.” As much as we might want it to be in the glorious appearance of a multitude of the heavenly host, I suspect we will have better luck looking in places like swaddling clothes and a manger. God keeping God’s promise in the ordinariness of life is the good news of Christmas. Telling people when we see it is the joy of being a shepherd. In Christ, we are all shepherds.

Merry Christmas!

The Rev. Craig A. Satterlee, Bishop, Ph.D.

(Pastor's Notes continued from Page 1)

Lutheranism is an arms-wide-open approach to the world, uniquely embracing its beauty, its heartaches, and its opportunities. But it is also an eyes-wide-open approach as well. We value healthy relationships and life-affirming service. We know how to work through conflict without being contentious.

We may not see clearly in 20-20, but “we do see Jesus” (Hebrews 2, verse 9) “for whom through whom all things exist.”

“Church” may not be a popular word right now, because of what people read in the paper — “church” used to express disapproval, rejection and fear. But we are here to free those who all their lives were held in slavery to fear (Hebrews 2 again) We want to be a different kind of church — grace-filled, affirming, dissenting, and peace-making. It promises to be a challenging, hopeful, Christ-filled year.

Pastor Ogden

The Annual Meeting & Potluck will take place on Sunday, January 26th after 10:15 am worship.

If you can join us, please do so.

From our Samaritas (MapleCreek) Senior Living Friends:

OUR ANNUAL LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH VISIT AND COLOR TOUR

By Evie Borst

For years there has been a special bond between our Samaritas community and Lebanon Lutheran Church in Whitehall, Michigan. Our recent color tour to this church was as great as always. Pastor Doug, Flo, and Bernice were the first familiar faces we saw upon arrival. The luncheon was delicious complete with several kinds of homemade pies for dessert. Some of us toured the beautiful church while others chose "goodies" from the loaded tables of gifts provided just for us.

Flo King is the lady that heads the committee for this annual event for Samaritas residents. I had a delightful phone conversation with Flo, and she gave me some history to explain how this tradition started.

Henry Roesler resided in Montague, MI, and was a communicant member of the Lebanon Lutheran Church. He served on the police force in Montague, became Chief of Police, then served as Mayor of the City. When Mr. Roesler became administrator of Luther Village in 1970, he and Ethel Anne Civis (a fellow member of the church and also Flo's mother) brought food to residents at Luther Village. Thus the friendship began. Since then there have been regular visits between our residents and the folks from Lebanon.

A few years ago, the members made and gave dozens of hats and pairs of mittens for the children in our Foster Care Program. Three years ago when we entertained a group from Lebanon for Sunday dinner, they brought 100 handmade tote bags for families in our New Americans (refugees) Program. The bags contained a towel, wash cloth, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, and a comb.

We have been making the annual color tour to Whitehall for 27 years now. We hope to continue this tradition with these dear friends for years to come. We already look forward to next October when we will be greeted with smiles and hugs.

** This article appeared in the Samaritas Senior Living newsletter and was sent to Flo King.*

Thank You to everyone who helped with our First Annual Breakfast with Santa event.



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Thank you to everyone who volunteered to try a Thursday night Food Pantry. We wanted to see if there were people we weren't reaching, but we decided Wednesday morning was still good.  
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Scout House - - - Coming Soon...

We're bringing back a favorite event from last season. Parkas and Plates is an fun night for couples and friends who want to hit the lighted cross country ski trails or snowshoe trails, enjoy some amazing food and beverages and kick back to live acoustic music. It's the perfect Valentine's date night or just a fun night out with friends. Here's how it all

SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING

A five course dinner will be set up at the intersections of our lighted ski and snowshoe trails. Never cross country skied or snowshoed before? That's okay! We have all the equipment you'll need and staff to give you instruction. All you need to do is dress warm, come with an appetite and have fun!

The dinner course is set up on a beginner ski route with small hills and only about 2 km in distance. Along the trails you will receive each course of your meal and some craft beverages. Folks who wish to ski other parts of our trails may do so at their leisure throughout the evening. Participants will take off in flights beginning at 6pm with a new flight taking off about every 10 to 15 minutes. You can select your flight time when you purchase your ticket. All participants should plan on arriving up to a half hour before their flight takes off to ensure enough time to get equipment on and get ready.





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 January 1st. We will be open Friday, January 2nd at 9:00 am.