

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

# THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

August 2021

## 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  
Worship on the Web

### Office Hours

Please contact the church office for  
current hours

Newsletter Editor &  
Bulletin Announcements  
Margaret Everling

### Church Council

Meg Eaton	Cheri Crouch
Brian Jaekel	Scott Keller
Alan Hinks	Wietze Schaafsma
Sarah Schmalz	

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

[www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com](http://www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com)

Facebook: Lebanon Lutheran Church  
(ELCA)

Instagram—Twitter : #lcsignsofgrace

I wish I could soften the impact of this, but I can't.

The Delta variant has invaded western Michigan; we have to require masks when we worship indoors.

Starting August 1, we worship outdoors. It's been good to do that -- we had some people come who are not comfortable indoors, we've seen our littlest kids playing on the swings, we've experienced sun and birds and the bustle of morning activity, all the places God is active that we cannot see through stained glass.

Whenever the weather is too wet or too hot to worship outside, we will move inside and require masks : we have plenty, but I recommend we get in the habit of carrying a mask.

It really makes me sad to write this.

Of the fifth commandment Luther writes:

*We are to revere, and love God so that we do not  
endanger or harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead  
help and support them in all of life's needs.*

And in the evening when I take off my mask, I will pray Luther's morning prayer, again from the small catechism:

*I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously protect me tonight, into your hands I commend my self: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angels be with me, so that the wicked foe have no power over me. Amen.*

*Pastor Ogden*

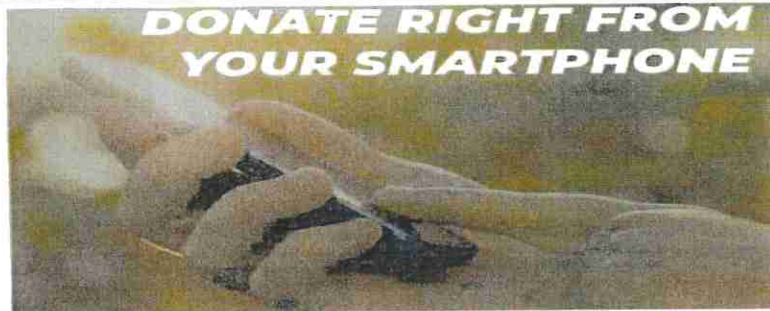


## SCOUT CAN DRIVE



Here are the can drive dates for 2021. Each would be help in the LLC parking lot (S. entrance) 9:00 am to noon.

September 11  
December 11

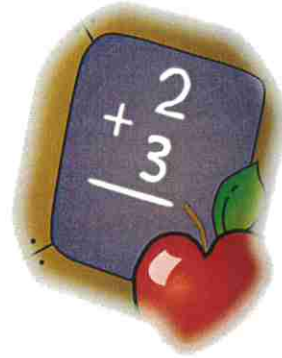


Giving through our GivePlus Mobile app is an easy and convenient way to donate to our church. It only takes a moment to set up an account:

1. Download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play
2. Find our church by ZIP code 49461 or by searching for our Church name: Lebanon Lutheran Church
3. Donate: to the General Fund, The Building ( Capital Campaign) or to the Food Pantry.

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**August 2021  
Fund of the Month  
Backpacks**



***Websites of Interest***

[www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com](http://www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com)

[www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org)

[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

[www.whitelakescouting.com](http://www.whitelakescouting.com)

[www.whitelakechorale.com](http://www.whitelakechorale.com)

[www.hopescarves.org](http://www.hopescarves.org)

[LivingLutheran.org](http://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

**Helen Bartlett**, at home  
**Mary Bernhardt**, at Robinswood Assisted Living #115 (Kay Snell)  
**Marlene Holmstrom**, at home  
**Elaine Liska**, at White Lake Assisted Living - Whitehall  
**Ruth Nurmi**, at home. With health concerns  
**Nancy Peterson**, at Heartland , Room #405 B  
**Bernie Weidner**, at Sanctuary of the Oaks. (Danielle Jacobs)  
**Marty Windbacher**, at home

### Special Prayer Concerns:

**Tracey Allen**, (Roger Silk's cousin) diagnosed with terminal brain cancer  
**Jennifer Snowden Bossi**, 34, (Ardy Bulthouse's granddaughter) diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.  
**Dan Girvan**, with health issues  
**Cora Hendrick**, (Curt Crouch's mother) diagnosed with cancer  
**Allen Hinks** father, diagnosed with Afib.  
**Vicki Hinks**, hip replacement surgery  
**Lauren Kerkstra**, (Darrel and Jeanette Otto's granddaughter), recovering slowly, able to walk and take commands. Remains non-verbal .  
**Donna Knoth**, with heart issues.  
**Amy Jean Knorr**, ( Brian Holmblades aunt in Tucson) with pneumonia. 103 years old  
**Lara MacGregor**, Cancer is aggressive, progressing and life threatening.  
**Dwight Mead** (Paula Moreau's brother-in-law), non-hodgkin lymphoma mantel type (stage four).  
**Ruth Nurmi**, with severe back pain  
**Tammy**, (daughter of Wietse and Melanie Schaafsma) with brain cancer & diabetic. At home with condition stable at this time.  
**Jen**, (Tammy's sister ) suffered aneurysm and hospitalized.  
**Sharon Swenson**, (Lora Swenson's sister-in-law), improved vision after surgery.  
**Darlene Willbrandt**, undergoing chemo and radiation for oral cancer

# BACK TO SCHOOL

## Backpack Giveaway

AUG  
19



5-7 PM

**WHERE:** Lebanon Lutheran Church • 1101 S. Mears  
**PARKING:** Additional parking available at Shoreline Elementary

**WHEN:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 • 5:00 - 7:00 PM

**WHAT:** 200 K-8 backpacks filled with supplies will be given away.

**HOW IT WORKS:** Students must be present with their parent/guardian to receive backpack.



Lebanon Lutheran Church  
Whitehall, MI



HarborLight  
Credit Union



## Worship Notes

**Sunday, August 1, Pentecost 10**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Readings**

**Color: Green**

**Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15**  
**Psalm 78:23-29**  
**Ephesians 4:1-16**  
**John 6:24-25**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Ginny & Larry Foster**

**Musician:**

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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**Sunday, August 8, Pentecost 11**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Readings**

**Color: Green**

**1 Kings 19:4-8**  
**Psalm 34:1-8**  
**Ephesians 4:25-5:2**  
**John 6:34, 41-51**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Susan Katzwinkle**

**Musician:**

**Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Sunday, August 15 - Pentecost**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: Green**

**Readings**

**Musician:**

**Proverbs 9:1-6**  
**Psalm 34:9-14**  
**Ephesians 5:15-20**  
**John 6:51-58**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Jake & Elin Frietsch; Anna, Elizabeth**  
**August**

**Prayer of the Day**

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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**Sunday, August 22—Pentecost 13**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: Green**

**Readings**

**Musician:**

**Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**  
**Psalm 34:15-22**  
**Ephesians 6:10-20**  
**John 6:56-69**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Julie Ostrander**

**Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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**Sunday, August 29 - Pentecost 14**  
**Worship: 10:15am**

**Color: Green**

**Readings**

**Musician:**

**Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**  
**Psalm 15**  
**James 1:17-27**  
**Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Bernie Weidner**

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

August



8/1 Hazel Palmer	8/22 Brent Will
8/2 Jackie Martin	8/23 Jeffrey Hendrixon
8/4 Kay Snell	8/24 Sandra Kolb
8/14 Lori Will	8/25 Logan Montgomery
8/15 Linda Blakemore	8/27 Melissa Herring Kroll
8/15 Robbie Rop	8/27 Rachel Wahr Bartlett
8/16 Lisa Clark	8/28 Laurel Helveston Wolf
8/16 Doug Roesler	8/28 Nichole Page Farrar
8/16 Rikki Lee Will	8/31 Donna Stacy
8/16 Jon Blyth	
8/19 Jessica Gelvin	
8/20 Nicholas Will	
8/20 Jessica Knoth	
8/21 Cindy Albert	
8/21 Ethan Bowen	



8/3/74	Frank & Rita Lundell	8/21/82	Tony & Patty DeNicolò
8/7/71	Andy & Wendy Shalifoe	8/22/64	Tom & Sheila Fretty
8/13/93	Randy & Cathy Nurmi	8/31/68	Harry & Yolanta Swiatek
8/13/11	Seth & Megan Ahrenholz		



If you are not receiving the weekly Friday e-mails from the church, please check your e-mails junk or spam folder. Call the office if it is still missing.



## Baptism Anniversaries



8/1 Alaina Leo  
8/2 Megan Crouch  
8/4 Thomas Swiatek  
8/7 Jodi Nichols  
8/8 Sue Roesler

8/9 Deb Statz Peabody  
8/14 Gabriel DeMumbrum  
8/18 Joel Fretty  
8/28 Jenny Fretty

8/29 Ronald Anderson  
8/29 Bill Cloutier

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.”



### SAVE THE DATES!

It's time again to look ahead to the beginning of the school year. Lebanon is once again supporting families who find the back to school financial demands challenging. This year we will be giving away 200 backpacks filled with must have school supplies to area students. Our uncertainty about the virus variants makes having a condensed event a more viable plan. The students will simply register and then get their backpacks. Even though things are scaled down from past years, we still will need help with packing the backpacks on **Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>** and parking, registration and distributing backpacks on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Look for a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall the first week in August. What a fantastic opportunity for our Lebanon family to again support those in need!

## **Five Keys to Investing for Retirement from Thrivent Financial**

Making decisions about your retirement account can seem overwhelming, especially if you feel unsure about your knowledge of investments. However, the following basic rules can help you make smarter choices regardless of whether you have some investing experience or are just getting started.

Five important keys to remember are:

- Don't lose ground to inflation---affects a multitude of day-to-day costs, including your investments which significantly compound over time
- Invest based on your time horizon---the amount of time you have left until you plan to use the money you're investing
- Consider your risk tolerance---basically, how well you can handle a possible investment loss
- Integrate retirement with your other financial goals---think about establishing an emergency fund, paying off debt vs saving more, or establishing different "buckets of money" for tax savings
- Don't put all your eggs in one basket---diversifying your retirement options and investments, not simply different companies

Contact your Thrivent Financial Advisors Marci Bentz and Tony DeNicolo in Whitehall to learn more about Investing for Retirement. Call 231-894-8886 or email [whitehalloffice@thrivent.com](mailto:whitehalloffice@thrivent.com)

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## 2021 White Lake Chamber Music Festival

All performances are at 7:00 pm at the White Lake Golf Course Pavilion

6355 Michillinda Road, Whitehall

**August 3** - The Avalon String Quartet with Marina Hoover, cello

**August 4** - The Detroit Symphony Trio

**August 5** - The Avalon String Quartet

**August 6** - DePaul University Trombone Quartet

**August 7** - The Avalon String Quartet

**August 8** - Gala Dinner and Cookout \* Dinner at 6:00 pm at the Pavilion

*Tickets available at The Book Nook and Java Shop & through [whitelakemusic.eventbrite.com](http://whitelakemusic.eventbrite.com)*





North/West Lower  
Michigan Synod

2900 N. Waverly Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48906

517-321-5066  
[mittensynod.org](http://mittensynod.org)

## In this Issue:

Keeping Time

COVID-19 Response Grants

Racial Justice

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

## Keeping Time

The way we use our time is a good indication of what we consider to be of prime importance in life. We can always be counted on to find time for those things we consider most important though we may not always be willing to tell others, or even ourselves, what our real priorities are. Not only does our use of time show what is really important to us but it also indicates who or what is most significant to our lives. The same is true of the church. The church shows what is most important to its life by the way it uses time. One answer to the question of what Christians and the church believe could be found by looking at how Christians and the church keep or spend time.

During this leg of the pandemic journey (it is too soon to call the race against the virus won), many people are re-examining their priorities by reconsidering how they keep, use, and spend their time. The priorities they set and the choices they make will directly impact congregations and the church. Congregations and the church would therefore likewise do well to re-examine our own use of time. Jesus says, "What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops" (Matthew 10:27). In this spirit, I share what I am hearing, both in prayer and from others.

First, *people have a renewed appreciation of time as a gift from God.* Every Sunday for many years, congregations prayed this offertory prayer: "We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." Regarding time as God's gift to us, people want to cherish rather than waste it. Many are considering new careers so they do not need to commute or sit in an office. Many are pushing for flexible hours and the ability to work from home. Many, including pastors, experienced the loss of time with family so acutely that they are working to get closer to home. Congregational leaders tell me they have grown impatient with the way their congregations want to spend time—building preservation, parishioner preferences, and unending conflict. After leading the congregation this far through the pandemic, some are visiting other congregations where they are expected to do nothing more than worship God. While the gospel is worth losing our life for, the church is not worth losing our faith for. If this is where you find yourself, be honest. Tell your pastor. Don't just disappear. You will be welcomed back if and when you are ready.

We can expect some congregations will grow as others shrink. All congregations therefore would benefit from considering how much time we are spending on things like preserving buildings, satisfying every parishioner preference, and escalating conflict rather than seeking reconciliation, and whether this is really what we want to spend our time doing. We might ask if the ways we are spending time as a congregation are grateful, faithful uses of God's gift of time.

**Continued from page 1**

Second, *time is finite*. For example, no one can be in two places at the same time. I always have to remind people of this when I meet with congregations who want to explore partnership. No pastor can be in two different congregations at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning. The resulting question is how much we are willing to inconvenience and even sacrifice our use of finite time for the sake of others and the common good. This is certainly a question followers of Jesus should ask. A congregational leader recently observed the congregation's future depends on their willingness to be creative and change. "Will you do it?" I asked. The leader allowed my question to hang in the air unanswered.

Third, *your time is not my time*. We are less able to expect or assume how others will or should spend their time. Pastors marking time in their offices simply to be there is likely a thing of the past; pastors are not opposed to being in the office but want to know why they need to be there. Ann Stavros, our office manager, once warned someone who wanted to call me before eight in the morning (I am not an early bird) on Monday (my day off) on a routine matter, "You could, but I wouldn't." The caller thought I should be working on Monday morning. I overcame my temptation to call him when I (a night owl) was working the next Monday morning at 1:30 AM. As everyone figures out their new normal, we can graciously check our expectations and assumptions of how others will use time. If we have questions, we can ask in an interested, rather than an accusatory, manner.

Fourth, COVID-19 taught us that *time can run out in an instant*. This is as true for churches as it is for people. The boiler breaks. The retired pastor who serves our congregation for free gets sick. The mortgage payments on the addition that seemed such a good idea just a few years ago become unmanageable. God blesses the congregation with a gifted interim pastor for a set amount of time; however, the congregation doesn't use that time to move forward. Instead, it assumes that, if God provided one interim pastor, God will provide another and another and another forever, so the congregation never has to face its future. Not so. Eventually time runs out.

Jesus' "hour" is a prominent theme in John's Gospel. Jesus' "hour of glorification" comes when he dies on the cross. Jesus' promise to us and the church is that new, abundant life will come out of death, not that we and our beloved congregation will never, ever die. Now is the time for many congregations to decide what they will do with the time they have. Can they be creative and change? Or do they want to go along as they are for as long as they can? There is no wrong answer.

Now is the time for us all to summon the faith, honesty, and courage to heed Jesus' words: "What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops" (Matthew 10:27). We can do this because Jesus entered our time as a human being, is with us in all times as crucified and risen Savior, and is drawing us to the fullness of time, when Christ will reign all in all.

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

Hackley Community Care is now offering virtual counseling to adults who primarily remain at home for health reasons and/or concerns about COVID-19.

- We come to you! Counseling from the comfort of your own home; with hands on assistance from Community Health Worker, Tamea Williams.
- No internet needed to participate!
- Therapist, Mary Tyler, LMSW, will provide counseling using a sterilized iPad that we provide.
- We can help with other needs you may have - ask us!

Conversation . Caring Connections . Coping



Mary Tyler, LMSW



Tamea Williams, CHW

For more information call:  
Sara Theis at 231.733.6719

Partnering together:



# Whitehall District Schools

415 Sophia Street - Whitehall, NJ 09461 -- Telephone: 231-893-1060 -- Facsimile: 231-834-1061

## Job Posting

**Position Description:** Bus Driver (Reg. or Sub)

**Pay Rate:** \$16.25 per hour (4 hrs/day, school year for Reg.)

**Application Due:** ASAP

Are you interested in a job that makes a difference in the lives of children? Join our driving team and be one of the first people to greet our students every morning.

No experience necessary.

18 yrs or older & good driving record required.

We will pay for your training/licensure.

Interested individuals please call (231)893-1060 or email

[PennyEvert@WhitehallSchools.net](mailto:PennyEvert@WhitehallSchools.net)

Penny Evert

Transportation Director

[PennyEvert@WhitehallSchools.net](mailto:PennyEvert@WhitehallSchools.net)

231-893-1060 office

231-730-1926 cell

Pamela Morningstar

Administrative Assistant



## HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

### Online

1. Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).
2. In the "GET STARTED" section on the right, click **Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®**.
3. Log in by entering your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "Register for account access.")
4. Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
  - a. To direct to a previous organization:
    - Click "Direct Now" next to the organization's name, or
    - Click on the "View activity history" link, scroll down and click on the name of the desired organization.
  - b. To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click "Search."
5. Choose "Direct All" or enter a specific number and click "Direct Now." Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

### By phone

1. Call **800-847-4836** and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
2. Press **1** to direct Choice Dollars or **2** to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars® program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

**You have the power to recommend where Thrivent gives back!**

**WANT TO MAKE AN EVEN BIGGER IMPACT?**

**Make a personal donation.**



The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

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## 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](mailto:office@lebanonlutheranchurch.com)  
(best)



Annual Backpack Giveaway is  
August 19, 2021  
See details inside this newsletter!