

the Voice parish newsletter



Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church
975 Washington Road Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph....He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb....

-Luke 23:50-53

Happy New Year! New Year's resolutions are making news. Our council has approved the construction of a new columbarium in the coming year. My regrets for the morbidity of this news, but I hope funeral planning will become a resolution for some in our church. Funeral talk is not cheery. Nevertheless, having a plan is a kind gift for surviving family and friends. Grief and stress are mitigated when advance directives are in place.

In the coming year, 48 burial spaces (niches) in our new columbarium will be made available for purchase. *Armento Incorporated*, a premier manufacturer in Buffalo, NY, has been awarded the contract. They constructed our first columbarium and will provide us an exact replica to be located on the chancel's south wall. Our two columbariums will face each other.

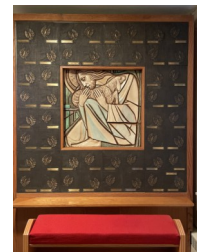
Details will be provided soon about purchasing a niche. Please contact the church office if you're interested in reserving a space. Questions can be emailed to mtleboluth@aol.com or directed to the church office by phone (412-563-0300). Some find comfort having a sanctuary as their resting place. The reposing saints in our chancel are a continual witness to faith in Christ. Joseph of Arimathea assumed responsibility for Jesus' body following his death. Cremation was a widespread practice in the early church and it's now a growing trend. Many cite financial and environmental reasons for choosing cremation.

The niches in our first columbarium sold quickly years ago. Plans changed over time for some who decided to sell their spaces to others. Please think about funeral planning as a New Year's resolution. Survivors are blessed by decisions made in advance. Stress is compounded following sudden death when plans are not in place.

God bless everyone in the New Year. We cherish all the saints at rest in our sanctuary or in other locations. Thanks to our council and to David Haines for assisting in our new columbarium plans.

Living with you in the hope of Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy



January, 2022



In-Person Sunday Morning Liturgy at Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

Updated November 29, 2021

As we continue to hold Sunday morning liturgy in our building, we are taking great care to worship in a safe, responsible manner. While constant vigilance is needed by all considering COVID-19 variants that have emerged, we will continue to safely congregate to praise and worship the Lord in person. Virtual worship and telephone worship will continue to be available for those unable to join in person.

Prior to Worship in our Sanctuary

Wellness: We encourage all to be vaccinated and get the booster vaccine when you are eligible. This includes both COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

Entrances: There will be three locations to enter the church building:

Front Door leading into the Narthex from the Governor's Drive (Washington Rd.)

Side Door on the north driveway near the Handicap Parking spaces

Rear Door accessible from the parking lot behind the Christian Education wing.

All other doors will be locked from the outside to reduce internal traffic into areas of the building that would then need to be sanitized.

Facemasks are required for all individuals while in the building regardless of vaccination status. Masks must cover the nose and mouth. Individuals are asked to supply their own masks or coverings. (One-time use masks will be available at the rear entrance and in the Narthex should one forget their mask.)

Social Distancing should be practiced by everyone. All worshippers should continue to use good judgment regarding social distancing and safe health practices.

Offering Plates will be positioned near the entrances to the worship space. Please place your offering in the plate as you walk to a designated pew. You are also invited to use the [my E-offering](#) link at www.MtLebanonLutheran.org.

Bulletins will be positioned on tables near the entrance to the nave (next to the Offering Plates) for your use. Please pick up your bulletin, take it with you to the pew, and take the bulletin home with you at the conclusion of the Liturgy. (The events and other information may be referenced during the week!)

...continued

During Worship

Pews: Worshippers are encouraged to maintain social distancing during liturgies as much as possible. Please sit in designated pews and respect the ribbons that identify which pews are available for seating and social distancing.

Worship: Music, Hymns, and Anthems will be led by the choir or appointed leaders from the Chancel. Singing in the pews will be allowed with face coverings in place.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at each liturgy. Follow the special procedures that have been established for the safe distribution of the Eucharist. Pastor will wear a mask. **NEW GUIDELINE: Please do not remove face coverings until after receiving the host and wine AND moving beyond the tables on either side of the center aisle.**

At the Conclusion of Worship

Maintain Social Distancing as you leave the building. It is important to minimize the potential for exposure.

Fellowship in the Narthex will be held near the doors to allow for additional air circulation. Greet fellow worshippers at safe distances from one another. Individual beverages and packaged treats will be available, and masks should be removed only when eating or drinking

Wrappers will be recycled as a demonstration of our environmental stewardship.

Due to reduced coffee consumption, please consider supporting the Coffee Project of Lutheran World Relief during this time.

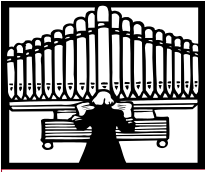
Virtual Worship (online and via telephone)

Live-Stream Worship will be held each week on our Facebook page during the 8:30 AM Liturgy and available shortly thereafter on both Facebook and our YouTube channel. (Links available at www.MtLebanonLutheran.org)

On-Demand Worship will be available on our congregation's Facebook page and our YouTube Channel which is easily accessed via the link on our website's homepage (www.MtLebanonLutheran.org)

Telephone-based Liturgy is available at 10 am on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in worshipping by phone, please contact the Church Office by Friday at Noon.

Tithes and Offerings: Members and friends unable to attend sanctuary worship are encouraged to remain faithful in giving. Financial gifts may be mailed to the church office. Also consider using our web-based option. The link to **my E-offering** will continue to be available on our website's homepage. (www.MtLebanonLutheran.org)



Musical Musings—January, 2022

Larry Allen



Happy New Year to each and every one.

A heart-felt thank you to all the members of the Chancel Choir who rehearsed weekly and sang throughout the season. These are remarkable individuals who put making music for their church and their God at the top of the priority list on Wednesdays and Sundays. Because of Covid, all are wearing masks and we have divided the choir on both sides of the Chancel. It has been interesting to hear comments about the “stereophonic” effect of this arrangement. And my compliments to the singers for rising to this challenge. Their commitment pays off and I hope that you who worship in the pews have noticed the steady improvement in the quality of their musical offerings. I am very proud of them and hope that you are as well!

Thanks to all who participated in music during the Advent and Christmas seasons:

- Barb and Hannah Heagy for working with the church school singers for their part in the December 19 liturgy.
- Kim and Luke Steinhaur for providing music at the 5:00 Christmas Eve family service.
- All the members of the Choir who offered the Pergolesi *Magnificat* accompanied by Pittsburgh Symphony strings at 7:30, and to the quartet (Charlene, Jenny, Alex and Corey) who went the extra mile at 11 pm!

I hope that next year will find things more in the realm of normal expectations for Christmas music, but thank all for making all our offerings as beautiful and fine as they were.

Blessings,
Larry Allen



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: January, 2022

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please switch with another server. If you cannot get a substitute call the church office at 412-563-0300 or Pastor Doug at [412] 926-5440; or email the church at mleboluth@aol.com



| | 8:30 | 10:00 |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| January 2 Crucifer | Luke Dwulit | Hayden Sinar |
| January 9 Crucifer | Dylan Snyder | Sabrina Cox |
| January 16 Crucifer | Lexi Jones | Luke Frankovitch |
| January 23 Crucifer | Owen O'Brien | Henry Keplar |
| January 30 Crucifer | Annaleigh Dwulit | Carter Lutz |



The worship links to Facebook & YouTube can be found on our website:



www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

IN-PERSON, SANCTUARY WORSHIP

**Sunday's
8:30 AM & 10:00 AM**

Virtual Worship 8:30 AM Facebook LIVE

Posted later on our YouTube channel

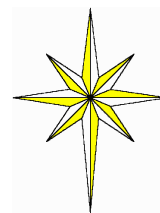
THE WORD of the LORD

| | | |
|------------|--|---------------------|
| January 2 | Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:10-18 | Christmas 1 |
| January 9 | Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 | Baptism of Our Lord |
| January 16 | Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11 | Epiphany 2 |
| January 23 | Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Saint Luke 4:14-21 | Epiphany 3 |
| January 30 | Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Saint Luke 4:21-30 | Epiphany 4 |

Feast of Epiphany
Devotions- Live Facebook
Thursday January 6
7:30 PM



Images of Epiphany



Epiphany is a season *out of sorts*. To many Christians in the West, the feast from which the Epiphany weeks are named seems something like a misplaced Christmas. Popular piety and more than one Christmas Eve worship has placed the Magi at the manger beside the shepherds [and in many South Hills' front yards as well!]

The Season of Christmas lasts just two weeks! And when it ends, and like children who have opened all their presents, we're not sure what to do next! Is the excitement over? Do we go back to what we had been doing a few weeks ago?

The Season of Epiphany is a time for rejoicing in the light that shines in our darkness, the light that reveals both our sin and the One who has come to forgive it.

The major feature of the Christian Epiphany is that it provides an affirmation that whatever disclosures of the ultimate might come among us, the essence of God's disclosure in and through Jesus lays bare both the complexity of our own existence and the wonder of God's being.

As the Magi travel to Bethlehem, the proclamation is that the Christ child is born for the whole world. The identity of the travelers from the East remains a mystery, but they were Gentiles.

They found the one they sought not among the powerful or even comfortable. The one sent to reveal God to the nations came by means of an oppressed people and was greeted by foreigners.

The message of Epiphany is clear, light shines not only in darkness, but God acts through the *unlikely* to touch the lives of the excluded.

And this theme continues throughout the Epiphany Season starting with Jesus' baptism at the River Jordan; God in man made manifest to all of creation. It continues until the final Sunday of the Epiphany Season, the Festival of the Transfiguration of our Lord [February 27], on which the revelation comes even to those who persistently misunderstood it.





ONLINE GIVING

Is now available in association with



myEoffering

www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

WHAT IS myEoffering?

myEoffering is a service we've teamed up with to give you the ability to send your offerings online in the same way that many of you already pay bills and purchase products. We chose to use myEoffering because they are part of a trusted, Christian family-owned company, who have been serving the needs of churches for nearly 100 years. Their product is solid, secure, easy, and convenient.

WHY SHOULD I USE myEoffering?

Many of you already pay for most of your purchases electronically, whether online or with a credit or debit card. So we have decided to offer this service as a convenience to you - you can stop writing checks or having to remember to bring cash every Sunday. Simply log in to our service and set up your offering. You can set the donations to match your pay periods, and even send your one-time donations to the special offerings we may have from time-to-time. This new service allows you to give any amount, at any time, from home or on the road, with your computer or even your mobile device. Now you can control how and when you give your tithes.

HOW DOES IT HELP?

Online giving is the future. In the lifetime of our young people, we will see electronic payments overshadow traditional methods of paper payments. In order to position ourselves to continue doing the work of God in the future and to make it as convenient as possible to be a cheerful giver to God's work, we have decided to offer online giving to you. In addition to easier access to giving and more engagement with young stewards, online offering has many benefits for the church. It allows us to more easily track contributions for budgeting. It saves us from manually tracking those contributions every week. It saves us from large fees on check processing and allows us to more accurately forecast expenditures and needs.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Signing up is as simple as going to our church website listed above and look for the green computer mouse icon. That button will take you to the myEoffering page for our church. Simply sign up and begin giving online today! Or scan the code to the right with your mobile device to get started now.



SCAN THIS
CODE WITH
YOUR MOBILE
DEVICE NOW





WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

O God, you are the hope of every generation. We give you thanks for the elderly, frail, or those in need of care in our midst, who point us to your faithfulness. With your healing presence touch the lives of all who are sick or sorrowful, that they may know the comfort and consolation of your Holy Spirit. Especially we pray for:

*Craig Elias; Bishop George Bashore;
Deb Cecotti; Scott Halapin; Patty Pavlak; Kalie Radigan; Amy Budner; Cheryl Poenisch;
Elizabeth Keim; Rian Dankert*

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the February issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by **Sunday, January 16th**. Articles may be left in the church office or email:

The 2022 Altar Flower and Worship Bulletin Donation Charts



We still have open Sundays for those who wish to sign up for altar flowers or worship bulletins for the 2018 season. [Please, if the date wanted is taken, select another date!] Some dates have evening liturgies and some dates are for midweek liturgies. The cost of donation is \$30.00 per vase for flowers and \$25.00 per Sunday or Holy Day for bulletins. Please submit to the Church Office one week before any acknowledgement you would like printed. No reminders are sent for payment; we count on everybody to be good stewards.



Annual Stewardship... There is still time to review and return your Time and Talent sheets. Also, there are still some 2022 offering envelopes available for pick up in the Narthex.

A Note from the Treasurer:

For many members, the e-offering platform has been a useful tool and we thank you for using it. This is a reminder that if you use your bank account directly, the fee is 30 cents. If you use a credit card, the fee is 3.25%. Please use the bank account direct debit if at all possible.

Worship by Telephone:

Those not able to join in person or via computer may now worship via phone. We provide an audio replay of the 8:30 a.m. worship liturgy via conference call with a host from our congregation. To get additional details, contact the church office Monday through Friday at 412-563-0300 to sign up.

NEEDED: Please consider serving the Church as a Lector. Regular or occasional help will be appreciated. Please contact Cindy Brown at 412-779-2020 or email cindysgb@icloud.com. Thank you.

“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”
2 Timothy 4:2

Epiphany



The Celebration Continues!

Epiphany Devotion
Thursday January 6
Live Facebook 7:30 PM

Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday January 9

2022 Congregational Council Officers elected at October 21 Annual Meeting



Newly elected elected at our Annual Meeting in October begin their service this month. They are: Gayle Homberg, Vedette Keplar, Jeff McGraw, and Amy Stabenow. They will join continuing council members: Cindy Brown (Worship & Music) and Jim Needles (Stewardship), James Brentzel (Property) Sara Dougherty (Social Ministries), Don Snyder (Property), Michelle Schocker (Vice President), Alan Trivilino (Evangelism), and Stacey Tubbs (Youth Ministries).

Thank you to our outgoing council members for sharing their time and talents. We offer our heartfelt thanks for their leadership, commitment, and faithfulness.

The Congregational Council is constituted in order to provide a partnership with the pastor in the ministry of the Gospel. This Congregational Council will be installed in January. Council members who do not serve as officers will serve as liaisons for the Standing Committees of council.



While shopping....

Please continue to remember the ministry of the Food Bank at St. Michael and All Angels' with your contributions of non-perishable food, cleaning and laundry products and monetary donations. When making monetary donations, please make your check payable to *Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church* and designate your donation for St. Michael's Food Pantry [Your donation will be recorded and then forwarded.] or to the ELCA World Hunger ministries using a *designated gift envelope* in your pew. Thank you.

Meal with the Poor....



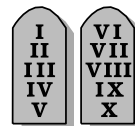
Our next meal at the Daily Bread Ministries is Sunday, January 23, 2022. We will be serving approximately 150 individuals Turkey Tetrazzini, vegetable, fruit, roll and a dessert.

Sign up sheets for food donations will be in the Narthex.

Thank you in advance for your support of this mission of our congregation. The individuals who receive these meals truly appreciate this care.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- 1 You shall have no other gods.
- 2 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.
- 3 Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.
- 4 Honor your father and your mother.
- 5 You shall not murder.
- 6 You shall not commit adultery.
- 7 You shall not steal..
- 8 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 9 You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- 10 You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or don key, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.



CHILDREN & YOUTH PAGE

Sunday School Choir

Congrats to our Sunday School Choir! The kids did a great job singing “*The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*” in Worship on December 19. Our talented singers include Colton, Brynlee & Kendall Zielinski; Samantha & Liliana Croom; Sterling & Scarlett McCombs; Tatum Tomnay; Annabelle Kegel; Paige & Isla Gentzel; Madalena & Gabriel Provins, Delaney Graybill; Mackenna Cercone; and Ewan & Henry Keplar.

Many thanks to our Sunday School Choir Leaders: Barb Heagy and Hannah Heagy Morrison, to percussion accompanist Alex Sabo, and to our Sunday School teachers and parents for their support.

Sunday School Resumes January 9

Join us for Sunday School each week at 10:00. Classes resume January 9 in the socially-distanced Social Hall. The younger students follow the Whirl Lectionary-based curriculum with Bible lessons corresponding with those in heard in Worship. The 5th – 8th graders use “Connect”, a curriculum which connects Bible readings from both the Old and New Testament. We look forward to having your kids in Sunday School each week.

Sunday School Teachers & Substitutes Needed

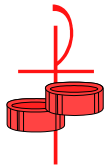
We are looking for volunteers to teach, assist or substitute in Sunday School. The curriculum includes very easy to prepare lesson plans. Teachers and assistants are needed in Pre K and Elementary classes. They usually team-teach with others, rotating weeks as schedules permit; so most are there every other week or once or twice a month.

Adult and Teen volunteers must be vaccinated against Covid-19 and wear masks. The children also wear masks, and classes meet in the socially-distanced Social Hall. Please contact MBTrivilino@verizon.net for more information and to volunteer.

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation

Many thanks to our dedicated Sunday School teachers during the first semester. It is wonderful to have in-person learning and to see the kids again! Teachers include Matt Frankovitch, Kathy Hrabosky, MB Trivilino, Alexis Jones, Hunter Rheinfrank, and Mary Sadowski, with substitute Vedette Keplar. Thanks also to Melodie Frankovitch for her Library displays and to Deb Hazlett & Cindy Zuch for Youth Service Crafts. Cindy is concluding her six year term as our Educational Ministries Chairperson, but will continue designing our beautiful bulletin boards! Please take a moment to show your appreciation to all our dedicated teachers and volunteers! They have devoted energy and hours each week teaching our children, helping them to be “*Disciples of Christ for the Glory of God!*”





Congratulations to Anne Bryan and Timothy Bidlack who were united in marriage on Friday, December 31, 2021 in our sanctuary. We pray God's blessings for this newly married couple as they begin their lives together in Christ.



Through the waters of baptism, we welcomed **Jeremy Tripp Erickson** into our family on December 26. Jeremy is the son of Roy & Amy Erickson, the brother of Luke and Nolan, and the grandson of Tom & Lyn Ultsch. Sponsors were Ryan and Laura Garrison.

Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the Cross of Christ forever, may Jeremy know God's love, sense the Father's purpose for him and mature into a disciple of our Lord Jesus.

MEAL WITH THE POOR 2022

January 23, 2022
March 13, 2022
May 15, 2022
July 17, 2022
September 11, 2022
November 20, 2022

A Prayer for New Days Ahead

Heavenly Father, thank You for making all things new! As another new year begins, help us live each day for You. May we continually have a new song in our hearts to sing to You, no matter what comes our way. We trust in You because we know Your mercies are new every morning, and your blessings are plentiful. Thank you for everything. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

The Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 9th

The teachers of the early church emphasized Jesus' baptism, seeing it as a revelation of Jesus' divine sonship, the anointing and appointment of Jesus to his messianic office at the beginning of his public ministry, a declaration of Jesus' solidarity with the sinful human race in undergoing baptism by John, and a baptism of the water to give the element power to cleanse from sin. [Philip Pfatteicher; **Commentary on the Lutheran Book of Worship**, Augsburg Fortress, p. 217.]

The Baptism of our Lord, always celebrated the First Sunday after the Epiphany, is an expression of the joy of the Epiphany of our Lord. In fact it serves as a further "manifestation" of the identity of Jesus.

Along with the Easter Vigil and Pentecost, this festival day is one of the traditional times of the church for baptism, because of its symbolic nature.



Looking ahead

Ash Wednesday - March 2
Easter - April 17
Pentecost - June 5



BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE NEW YEAR

MONDAY NIGHT

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

1 & 2 Corinthians

Jan. 10 - 1 Corinthians

Jan. 17 - 1 Corinthians

Jan. 24 - 1 Corinthians

Jan. 31 - 1 Corinthians

Feb. 7 - 2 Corinthians

Feb. 14 - 2 Corinthians

Feb. 21 - 2 Corinthians

Feb. 29 - 2 Corinthians

THURSDAY MORNING

10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon

James

Jan. 13 - Ecclesiastes

Jan. 20 - Ecclesiastes

Jan. 27 - Ecclesiastes

Feb. 3 - Song of Solomon

Feb. 10 - Song of Solomon

Feb. 17 - Song of Solomon

Feb. 24 - James

March 3 - James

Join Pastor Heagy on Monday nights, Thursday mornings, or both days to discuss Saint Paul's Corinthian correspondence, Wisdom literature in the Old & New Testaments, and the passionate images found in Song of Solomon. Bibles will be available for use or bring your own. We'll meet in the Social Hall or Conference Room and practice social distancing. Members and friends are all invited. Except for the final meeting (March 3) on Thursday morning, all sessions will conclude before Lent.

Worshipping after Epiphany and prior to Lent 2022

at Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church



We are worshipping in the Sanctuary while using safe practices.
Join us after you've been vaccinated/boosted and when you are feeling comfortable doing so.
Travelling, Relocated, Away at School, or are otherwise unable to worship in the
Sanctuary with us? Here are ideas to make virtual worship more meaningful!



When to Worship



Livestreams on Facebook:

- Sunday morning Liturgies – 8:30 am

Video Replay on Facebook & YouTube:

- Available soon after each Worship event

How to Access the Liturgies & Devotions



Facebook:

- Visit @MtLebanonLutheran
<https://m.facebook.com/MtLebanonLutheran/>
- Click on the video link



YouTube

- Visit our YouTube Channel
<https://youtube.com/channel/UCY-2Ewf9b1iAB18iaovaN3w>

Links are also at www.mtlebanonlutheran.org



Telephone – Sunday Liturgies by phone:

- Sunday mornings – 10 am
- Call the Church Office for details!

Preparing and Worshiping



- **Schedule:** Choose a specific Time to Worship. Write it on the calendar. Be on time. This can be **the** priority for the day.



- **Prepare:** Gather the church's weekly materials that are sent to you each week by email or U.S. Postal:
 - **Worship Folder**
 - **Readings & Creeds**
 - **Hymns**
 - **Weekly Announcements**✓ Print ahead of time or view them on a separate device.
✓ These are also available on our website prior to Sunday!



- **Get a "Full Screen" Experience:** This is an hour like no other!
 - **Use the biggest screen you have.** Connect your device to your TV.
 - **Turn up the volume. Sing along!** We can all sing at home.



- **Worship and Fellowship Together...Safely:**
 - **Facebook** – "Share" & "Invite" your friends using the church's Posts and Events. You can even post your own invitation!
 - **Livestream** – Greet each other on Facebook using "Comments".
 - **In your Household** – Worship together with those living at home – using safe practices, of course.



- **Dress Up...a Little:** Consider wearing some real clothes. While we may be in our homes, we worship in the Lord's house.



Do you have **questions** about accessing our liturgies?
Would you like to schedule a personal tutoring session?



Please contact the Church Office at 412-563-0300
or email MtLeboLuth@aol.com to schedule assistance.

More ways to access Worship Materials:

Our members are encouraged to sign up with the church office to receive our weekly email blast. This timely email summarizes key happenings during the upcoming week and provides worship materials for those who are worshiping virtually. For those not on our email list, the worship materials are now on our home page, which can be found at www.mtlebanonlutheran.org.

Invite family members and friends across town, across the country, or around the world to join us on Sunday mornings. Worship Folders, Hymns, Readings, and Announcements are posted prior to Sunday morning's liturgy. This is one more way we can share the good news and expand our congregational family.

Being Together If Worshipping Remotely

While worshipping remotely, many worshipers are using Facebook comments to help us feel a bit closer to each other. During our Facebook live stream feel free to use "comments" to...

- Welcome each other at the beginning of worship. (Similar to greeting our friends in the Narthex.) Let's give a big shout out to those joining us from other cities, states, and countries!
- Pass the Peace (with words or Peace Sign emojis)
- Say "Amen" or use "Reactions" such as "Likes" and "Loves" when you are moved by Word or Music.

Of course, all should continue to use appropriate decorum while worshipping our Lord. Even though you choose to attend remotely, we are worshipping together. So 🙌 before we start, pass the 🙌, and your 🙌 will rise!



I would like you to consider participating in a our online giving designed to simplify weekly giving in our congregation.

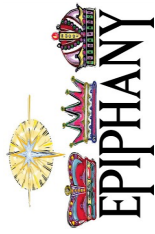
Electronic giving will enable every household or individual to make their church offering using electronic funds transfer or credit card. You may already be using online bill pay for your mortgage, car payment, or insurance premium through an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account. Many of you also have used your credit cards to purchase goods online through Amazon, eBay, or a number of other sites.

We have teamed up with myEoffering to enable you to use the same process to give your offering electronically from your bank account, credit or debit cards.

There is no cost to you for this new giving option. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue uninterrupted.





You can participate in the electronic giving program immediately. Just visit our church website and look for the "Donate Now" button.

Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.



JANUARY 2022



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------|---|------------------|---|
|  <p>2 Christmas 2 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:30 Catechetics 2</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4 4:00 Catechetics 1- Social Hall</p> | <p>5 7:00 Choir</p> | <p>6 Epiphany of Our Lord 7:30 Devotion Live-Streamed on Facebook</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>1 </p> |
| <p>9 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:30 Catechetics 2</p>  | <p>10 7:00 Bible Studies- 1 Corinthians Social Hall</p> | <p>11 4:00 Catechetics 1- Social Hall</p> | <p>12 7:00 Choir</p> | <p>13 10:00 Bible Studies- Ecclesiastes Social Hall</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15</p> |
| <p>16 Epiphany 2 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting 11:30 Catechetics 2 <i>Voice Articles Due</i></p> | <p>17 7:00 Bible Studies- 1 Corinthians Social Hall</p> | <p>18 4:00 Catechetics 1- Social Hall</p> | <p>19 7:00 Choir</p> | <p>20 10:00 Bible Studies- Ecclesiastes Social Hall</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22</p> |
| <p>23 Epiphany 3 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 1000 Sunday School 11:30 Catechetics 2 2:00 Meal with the Poor</p> | <p>24 7:00 Bible Studies- 1 Corinthians Social Hall</p> | <p>25 4:00 Catechetics 1- Social Hall</p> | <p>26 7:00 Choir</p> | <p>27 10:00 Bible Studies- Ecclesiastes Social Hall</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p> |
| <p>30 Epiphany 4 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:30 Catechetics 2</p> | <p>31 7:00 Bible Studies- 1 Corinthians Social Hall</p> | | | | |  |





1 *New Year's Day* Ask God to ground our resolutions and ventures in the promise that, through Christ, we will live in grace and freedom, knowing we are not alone in our endeavors.

2 Give thanks that, through Jesus Christ, we perceive God's grace, truth, creative might and will for humankind.

3 *Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month* Throughout this month, pray for those victimized by human trafficking, which disproportionately affects women and girls. Pray for an end to this global tragedy, and pray that all who suffer its abuse, injustice and oppression will find freedom, healing, support and safety, especially in our communities of faith.

4 Ask God to bless the studies, service and travel of college and university students involved in "J-Term" experiences. Pray that they will grow in faith, wisdom, knowledge and understanding of the world, and that their experiences will inspire their vocational discernment.

5 Praise God for attending to the needs of humanity through us, utilizing our diverse gifts and generosity to serve our neighbors in need, everywhere.

6 Ask the Spirit to make us bright lights in our communities and world, sharing the good news of healing and hope in Jesus Christ and demonstrating God's unbiased love through our actions, words and influence.

7 Thank and praise God for restoring our relationships as children of God, so that we can live with faith, hope and freedom as new creations and siblings in Christ.

8 After a two-year pause during the COVID-19 pandemic, the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program is getting ready to send volunteers out into the world again. Pray that the Spirit will guide the prayerful reflection of young adults as they discern how to respond to God's call to service and ministry with our global companions and churches.

9 Pray that everything we do during our baptismal journey in this world will point to God, who has redeemed us and redirected our lives through the birth, life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus — our Savior, teacher, guide and friend.

10 Continue to pray for healing and unity in our nation, and ask God to draw us closer to our neighbors, especially those we perceive as different or opposed to our perspectives, beliefs or values. Pray that we will grow in understanding and respect for one another and will work together for the well-being of our communities and neighbors in need.

11 Give thanks to God for our companions and partners in ministry, especially the Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, Lutheran Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations Network, and our full communion partners.

12 Give thanks for the daily, life-giving work of the Spirit, which creates, strengthens and sustains our devotion to Jesus Christ. Pray that the Spirit will renew us and empower us to live as people of faith, gathered and equipped to love and serve our neighbor, bear hope into the world and share the gospel with all people.

13 Join our global companion churches in prayers of thanksgiving and hope for the scholarship awardees of ELCA International Women Leaders, which supports the education of women around the world through seminars, south-to-south exchanges, in-country study programs, and degree programs at ELCA colleges and universities.

14 Praise God, who is mighty and eternal, the creator of all that exists and the source of our blessings and strength.

15 Pray for our neighbors who are struggling with or recovering from COVID-19, discovering the long-term effects that will impact their lives or grieving the loss of friends or loved ones. Continue to pray for the well-being and renewal of health care workers dedicated to serving others in times of illness and vulnerability.

16 By turning water into wine during the wedding at Cana, Jesus taught us how deeply God is engaged in every aspect of our human life — our joys, worries, celebrations, problems and sorrows. Praise God for knowing us so well!

17 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day* Remember in prayer the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his bold work, ministry, vision and sacrifice, which revealed all people to be children of God deserving respect, opportunity, equality and freedom from unjust laws. Ask God's help in righting the injustices that continue in our nation and throughout the world; pray for the wisdom, humility, courage and persistence needed to welcome all people into our church, society and institutions.

18 *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* Throughout this week, pray with our siblings in Christ from diverse cultures, traditions and confessions around the world for the unity of the church, so that, together, we will shine a bright light of hope, healing and good news on our troubled world.

19 Give thanks for the variety of gifts manifest among our siblings in Christ and for the unity we have in Jesus, which enables us to accomplish together much more than we could on our own.

20 Thank God for our special relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find new strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these challenging times.

21 "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings" (Psalm 36:7). Thank God for surrounding us with love and mercy on which we can rely.

22 Pray that the Spirit will inspire and lead people to respond to God's call to service through ELCA Global Mission as it seeks missionaries, volunteers and interns to walk alongside our global companions.

23 Give thanks that Jesus is our true Savior, light and hope — the Son of God, who lived among us and continues to dwell with us through the Spirit.

24 January is when outdoor ministry leaders begin recruiting staff for our summer camps. Pray that the Spirit will inspire young adults to respond to the call to serve in our outdoor ministries across the country and to share their faith and enthusiasm with campers of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

25 Ask God to help us understand that force, vengeance, wealth disparity and dominance over others are inconsistent with God's justice and power, and that these are revealed to us through Jesus' life and teaching, which exemplify humility, compassion, generosity, service, love without prejudice and advocacy for neighbors in need.

26 Rejoice and give thanks to God for uniting us in the body of Christ, which welcomes our diverse gifts, experiences, questions, complexities, ethnicities and cultures.

27 Pray for victims of violence and their families, that God will ease their pain, suffering and grief; pray for those who commit murder or other acts of violence, that God's grace will transform their hearts and lives.

28 Pray for our leaders and congregations, which create opportunities for us to study Scripture, share our questions and thoughts in conversation, and affirm one another's gifts for living the gospel, serving our neighbor and growing the church.

29 Pray for the ministry and impact of Lutheran Services in America, a nationwide network of 300 Lutheran social ministry organizations that serve 6 million people each year, using the gifts and skills of 250,000 paid staff and 150,000 volunteers.

30 Pray that our faith and confidence in Christ will embolden us to be public bearers of good news, hope and wholeness for all people, even in the face of intimidating challenges, criticism or skepticism.

31 Pray that the Spirit will help us understand and practice the qualities of love that God has shown us and that the apostle Paul commends to members of the church in Corinth: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:4-6).

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The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Kurt Kusserow

Bishop
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

The Reverend Douglas M. Heagy

Senior Pastor

Larry Allen

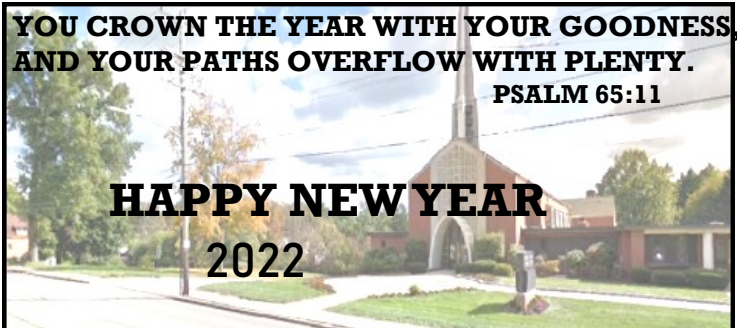
Director of Music and Organist

Mrs. Kris Malia

Parish Secretary

Mr. Mike Eck

Sexton



Baptism of our Lord

to be observed and celebrated

Sunday, January 9, 2022

All who attend church on this day will receive a seashell for which
to remember their baptism into Jesus Christ.

Live at Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church Facebook

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM



Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. — Luke 3:21-22