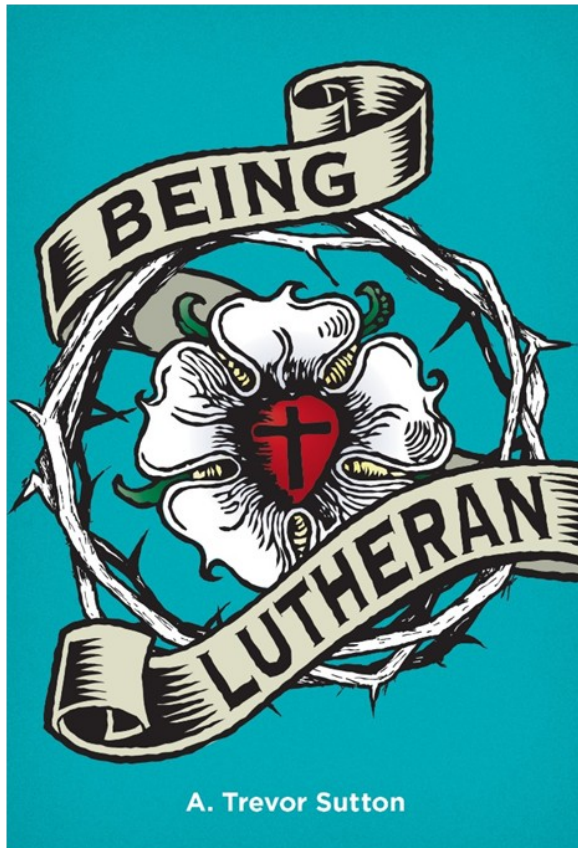


the *Voice* parish newsletter

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

975 Washington Road Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228



COMING THIS FALL

MONDAY NIGHT FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP

Registration limit is 12 people

September 11, 18, 25
October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss chapters and vignettes from *Being Lutheran*, by A. Trevor Sutton. Books are provided free. To register, call (412-563-0300) or email (mtleboluth@aol.com) the church office. Join us to discover together who we are in Christ!



August, 2023



Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. --Matthew 7:24-25

Oh, no, don't let the rain come down
(Ah, ah) Oh, no, don't let the rain come down
(Ah, ah) Oh, no, don't let the rain come down
My roof's got a hole in it and I might drown
Oh, yes, my roof's got a hole in it and I might drown.

The lyrics above are from *Don't Let the Rain Come Down*, the debut recording of *The Serendipity Singers*, a 1960s American folk group. The song reached # 2 on the charts in America in 1964. I remember singing this song in childhood.

Our education wing roof has had leaks for many years. Knowing it's past life expectancy and after receiving counsel from our property insurance company, we are undertaking a capital campaign to replace the roof. **Please read the capital campaign letter and pledge form included in this newsletter.** The cost of the project is \$60,900. Along with our council and executive committee, I'm hoping for participation from all members and friends. Giving amounts can be spread out over several years. Churches are voluntary organizations in America. By grace, we drink from our own wells. Giving for church comes from hearts grateful to God.

Please contribute sacrificially without undue pressure. We are stewards of a building gifted to us by forbears who lived and served here. We are caring for what we will pass on to those coming after us. Seeing our project cost is near to what some pay for automobiles, I believe we can reach our pledge goal in a timely way; and, best of all, Christ is with us.

God loves cheerful givers. Please pray for our capital campaign, including the lyrics, "Oh, no, don't let the rain come down." Please contribute gratefully.

With you in Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy



MOUNT LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH NEW ROOF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Dear Members & Friends of Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church:

Recently, when our property insurance was renewed, a building inspection revealed what we already knew: the poor conditions of the flat roof on our education wing and the flat roof on northwest corner of the sanctuary. As a condition of favorable rates, our insurance company strongly advised replacing both rooves. To be clear, they're well past life expectancy and have suffered frequent water intrusions. Therefore, after reviewing options, we have contracted with Pittsburgh Commercial Roofing, the low bidder, to replace both rooves for a total cost of \$60,900.

We regard this capital project as an expression of faithful stewardship and request the participation of all members and friends. Please read the frequently asked questions below and the answers to them. Contact the church office with other questions. A pledge form with options can be found on the opposite side of this document. Please return a pledge in a timely way, but before the end of the 2023 calendar year. The participation of all is urged to fairly share the responsibility of property care.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we undertaking a capital campaign to raise \$60,900 when our church's Stir into Flame fund balance can cover the cost of the rooves?

While it's true the church is blessed with funds, the possibility of sudden, expensive property repairs in the future make it prudent for us not to drain our fund balance. Faithful stewardship means taking responsibility for present and future needs.

Will there be pledge options to fit my personal budget?

Yes, please review the pledge options on the opposite side of this page. There are options for gift amounts and length of payments.

Is it possible to redirect my current pledge already made to the General Fund to this Capital Campaign?

Everyone is free to make personal giving choices, but it is recommended that any gift made for the new rooves not replace current giving. In other words, we hope members and friends will make special gifts above their current giving.

Thanks for your prayerful consideration. All gifts are equal and pleasing to God.

The Executive Committee

**NEW ROOF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
PLEDGE FORM**

In fulfillment of my membership vows and love for Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church, I pledge the following gift for the New Roof Capital Campaign:

Amount (circle one):

\$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$2500

\$5000 \$7500 \$10,000 Other \$ _____

Pledge Period (circle one):

In fulfillment of my membership vows and love for Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church, I will complete my pledge payments in the following time period:

One Time Gift

Over 6 Months

Over 1 year

Over 2 Years

Over 3 Years

Name _____

Pledge Date _____

In the event of unexpected life changes, pledges can be altered or dropped. Gifts are requested from what we have and made gratefully, not with undue pressure on anyone. Thanks for your faithful support of the church in all your service.

Please return this pledge form to the Church office or Sunday offering plate.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Problem (and power) of Money

[Jesus told the rich man] “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ... [Jesus taught the disciples,] “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” –Mark 10:21b-22, 25

At a Bible study, a man of means asked, “Why does Jesus hate money so much?” His family saw their money as a good thing, and he earnestly wanted to understand why Jesus seems to speak negatively of wealth again and again.

In fact, Jesus talks about money more than nearly anything else. Interestingly, for all his talk about money, he never asks for it. And he never condemns it. Instead, Jesus warns us about the corrupting influence of money.

Wealth poses spiritual risks. Jesus teaches that money has the power to turn us inward – away from loving God with all our heart and loving our neighbor as ourselves. It confuses our values and direction.

All of us want full lives brimming with security, relationship, joy, peace and love – but money can ensure us none of those things. They are the fruits of loving God with ALL our strength and of loving our neighbor as ourselves. Wealth can get in the way.

That was the issue with the rich man in Mark 10:17-27. Deeply religious, he nonetheless worries about eternal life. The “one thing” he lacks, Jesus tells him, can be satisfied by selling what he has and giving to the poor. Generous giving would break the bond that money has over him and help re-center him on loving God and loving neighbor.

Generosity is the spiritual prescription Jesus gives the rich man, and it’s the one for us, too. The primary goal of our church’s financial stewardship should not be to fund the church, but rather to break the chains that money may have on our hearts and souls. But giving generously we can help the church, our neighbor and ourselves. We can learn what it is to be free to love God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves.

--Pastor Rob Blezard, © 2023, Used by permission



Beginning in September...

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

“Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples.”

Learning to pray from Christ and Holy Scripture

10:00 AM-11:15 AM

September 14 A Way of Praying

September 21 Hannah’s Prayer

September 28 Solomon’s Prayer

October 5 The Lord’s Prayer

October 12 Abraham’s Prayer

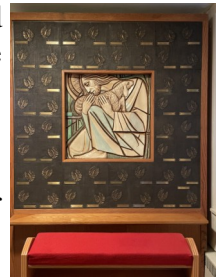
Led by Pastor Heagy, this five-week study will include video, Bible readings, handouts, and discussion. Participants will learn forms of prayer to begin and strengthen a piety of daily prayer. All are welcome.



NEW COLUMBARIUM - South Chancel Wall

Interment in the columbarium is open to church members and their extended families, and the specific policy covering the use of and payments for the columbarium niches is available upon request from the church office.

The size of each niche is suitable for the cremations of one or two individuals. The cost of each niche is \$1,000 for interment of a single individual and \$1,500 for the interment of two.



Spaces remain available.

Please contact the church office to indicate your interest.

Adult Dinner & Fellowship

**Sunday, August 20th
5:00 PM**



Plan to join us for dinner and good fellowship!

Please RSVP on the sign up sheet in the Narthex, or call the Church Office.

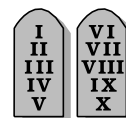
THANK YOU WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS!

We are grateful to our dedicated altar guild, ushers, lectors, acolytes, and Jim Needles, who so willingly continue to serve during these busy summer months at and in preparation for our worship services.

Your commitment and faithfulness are sincerely appreciated - thank you!

Church Library—Please take a moment to check out our own Library. It is located down the hall past the office. Discover many books with a Lutheran theme for both adults, teens and children. We also have music CD's you can check out. Just fill out a library card and leave on the counter in the library.

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 donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: AUGUST, 2023

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 mtleboluth@aol.com

August 6-Crucifer

8:30 Xavier Graybill

10:00 Easton Darcy

August 13-Crucifer

8:30 Emma Gelston

10:00 Nico Provins

August 20- Crucifer

8:30 Cameron Mayer

10:00 Milo Bucher

August 27-Crucifer

8:30 Henry Keplar

10:00 Jack O'Brien



The worship links to Facebook & You Tube can be found on our website:
www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

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

Virtual Worship 8:30 AM Facebook LIVE
 Posted later on our You Tube channel

The Word of the Lord

August 6	Time after Pentecost
	Isaiah 55:1-5
	Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21
	Romans 9:1-5
	Matthew 14:13-21
August 13	Time after Pentecost
	1 Kings 19:9-18
	Psalms 85:8-13
	Romans 10:5-15
	Matthew 14:22-33
August 20	Time after Pentecost
	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
	Psalms 67
	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
	Matthew 15:21-28
August 27	Time after Pentecost
	Isaiah 51:1-6
	Psalms 138
	Romans 12:1-8
	Matthew 16:13-20



Plan ahead!

Catechetical Classes Will Resume in September

Catechetical instruction in preparation for the Public Affirmation of Baptism, the rite also known as Confirmation, is scheduled to resume in September. This early notice will hopefully help both students and parents plan for the fall.

Level 1 classes will be Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30 PM, beginning September 5th.

These classes focus on the Old and New Testaments. An orientation meeting for parents and new students will be held on Monday, August 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Level 2 classes will be Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 PM, beginning on September 7th.

Level 2 classes cover Luther's *Small Catechism*, Lutheran theology, and organizational aspects of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Attendance at weekly class sessions, Sunday worship, and Sunday School are requirements. The full set of requirements, including others not listed here, will be given to students next month. All catechumens will be scheduled to serve at the Altar for worship liturgies. May 19, 2024 is the date for next year's Confirmation Sunday.

Questions with regard to participation in catechetical instruction should be directed to Pastor Doug Heagy.

The development of the Christian life requires that it be cultivated in all of its dimensions: worship, study, prayer, service, stewardship, and witness.

The Education Wing - both upstairs and downstairs of the church will be closed all the month of August for cleaning and maintenance.



Blessing of Backpacks....

On Sunday, August 27, at the 8:30 and 10:00 worship liturgies, our children and youth are invited to a blessing of their backpacks.. By this blessing, we honor God and affirm our children and youth as they begin a new school year.

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held in October. Look for more information in the September Voice Newsletter and upcoming bulletins.





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:**

Great God, our healer, by your power, the Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave hope to the hopeless. Look upon our brothers and sisters with mercy and bless them with your healing Spirit. Bring comfort in the midst of pain, strength to transform weakness and light to illumine darkness. Especially bring healing into the lives of:

Bishop George Bashore; Craig Elias;
Janice Seigle; Andy Kelemen

Daily Bread Outreach Meal



September 17th will be the next opportunity to participate by providing food or volunteering to serve the meal. The menu will be announced in the weekly bulletin in the upcoming weeks. We are currently accepting monetary donations towards this ministry. A sign up sheet will be in the narthex next month to volunteer



Mt. Lebanon Farmers' Market
[sponsored by the Lions' Club]
Wednesdays 4:00—7:00 PM

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The articles for the September issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by Sunday, August 13th. Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.



Dear Council Members:

Please have your committee reports for the upcoming Annual Meeting to the Church office by August 15th. Thank you. ♥♥

Synod Assembly News

The actions of the 2023 Southwestern Synod Assembly have been posted on the bulletin board in the hallway of education building. Thank you to Pastor Doug & Elizabeth Rheinfrank for attending the Assembly.

GLOBAL LINKS
Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

**Wednesday, August 16
1:00-3:00 pm**

**Volunteers Needed To Help Pack Surplus
Medical Supply for those in need.**

If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up in the Narthex.

Contact Andrea Croom at andrear.croom@gmail.com if any questions.

RALLY Day will be September 10, 2023.

This is the first day of Sunday School. Look for the registration form and more information in this issue of the Voice or contact the Church Office.

“SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP”

All are invited for a time of fellowship between worship liturgies.

Enjoy food, beverage, and conversing with each other in the Foyer or Front Lawn (weather permitting).

Hope to see you there.



The Evangelism Committee is looking for volunteers for coffee prep and clean up - Sponsorship—and preparing the sweet healthy treats for this time together. Please see the sign up chart on the bulletin board in the hallway by the Narthex. Thank you.

A Very Special Thank-You



To our amazing volunteers and Congregation, a heartfelt thank you for your support! Your generosity, time and talents made Vacation Bible School a huge success this year. Never before have I seen so many dedicated and talented volunteers committed to sharing the love of Christ with our neighborhood children. We were graced by 44 children. All were excited about the Hero Hotline where we introduced Romans 14:19 “So let’s strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up.”

The children enjoyed Crafts, Science, Interactive Bible Story time, Music and Recreation. Each station reinforced the Bible Verse as well as the Five Hotline Tips: Heroes are called to: Follow Jesus, Help Others, Work Together, Listen to God and to Show Grace. In the middle of the morning, we gathered as a group for Snack time and learned a mealtime prayer.

We introduced the Mission Project, Heroes R Us and sold items from The Giving Market to be donated to support The Children’s Home of Pittsburgh and Hello Neighbor. The kids loved this as they were able to connect with the love of giving to support children in need. Gifts were purchased and a special heart message was created by the giver and attached to each gift.

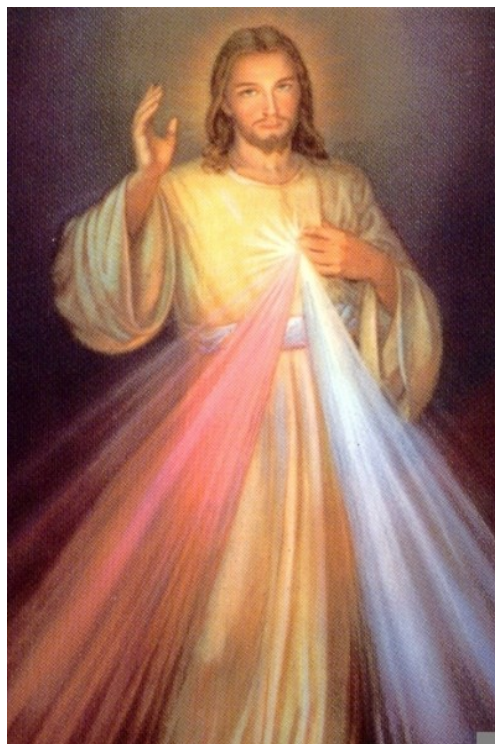
Our Congregation, our community, friends and families came out to support VBS and it was amazing! We would like to express special thanks to Pastor Doug Heagy, whose leadership, prayers, and devotion are essential to the children and volunteers. And to Mrs. Kris Malia, our Parish Secretary, who graciously provides support during all stages of VBS throughout the year.

Please remember the smiles, hearing the little voices at prayer, the laughter and dancing, the drumming, and of course the spark that resided in all their hearts when they heard the message. This is truly the love of Jesus. May God bless each of you! Thank you.

Peace,
Vedette Keplar

2023 Hero Hotline VBS Volunteers:

Monica Aravich	Luke Frankovitch	Vedette Keplar	Madalena Provins
Ava Arnold	Melodie Frankovitch	Lizzy Koval	Nico Provins
Chihiro Brentzel	Delaney Graybill	Chase Lutz	Aaron Rai
Cindy Brown	Jeff Graybill	Debbie Lutz	Ashim Rai
Christian Brownlee	Normajean Graybill	Elaine McCauliff	Tulasa Rai
Lisa Bucher	Xavier Graybill	Jim Needles	Glenn Reiner
Milo Bucher	Derek Harpst	Julia Nelson	Grace Reiner
Julia Campagna	Jaci Harpst	T.J. Nelson	Victoria Rentrop
Natalie Campagna	Katie Harpst	Julie Nichols	Lynn Seiler
Ivy Campbell	Madi Harpst	Jack O’Brien	Don Snyder
Jen Cercone	Dave Hazlett	Quin O’Brien	Tory Snyder
Kenna Cercone	Deb Hazlett	Aditya Patel	MB Trivilino
Andrea Croom	Jen Kennedy	Karen Pfeil	Lyn Ultsch
Lisa Cushman	Eric Keplar	Jessica Porter	Tom Ultsch
Finn Darcy	Ewan Keplar	Gabriel Provins	Carol Vogely
Sara Englesberg	Henry Keplar	Isabella Provins	Cindy Zuch



Rally Day! Sunday School Starts September 10

Join us as we kick off our academic year! Students ages 4 and up—come meet your teachers and classmates. The entire congregation is invited to participate in our Fellowship event to assemble Healthy Snack Bags for Daily Bread Ministries. This is our Day of Service for ELCA Gods' Work/Our Hands Sunday.

Schedule for September 10

8:30 – Early Worship Liturgy

9:35 am – Sunday School Families gather in Social Hall to decorate lunch bags and write blessings.

10:00 – Sunday School Students & Teachers are commissioned at beginning of Late Worship Liturgy

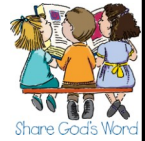
10:15 – Students and Teachers go to Classrooms for Lessons

11:00 – **Entire congregation is invited to Social Hall** for a time of fellowship and refreshments, to assemble the Healthy Snack Bags and write blessings.

Please see the flyer in this issue for more details and a list of needed ingredients for the Healthy Snack Bags. Donations may be brought to the Narthex throughout August. See you on Rally Day!



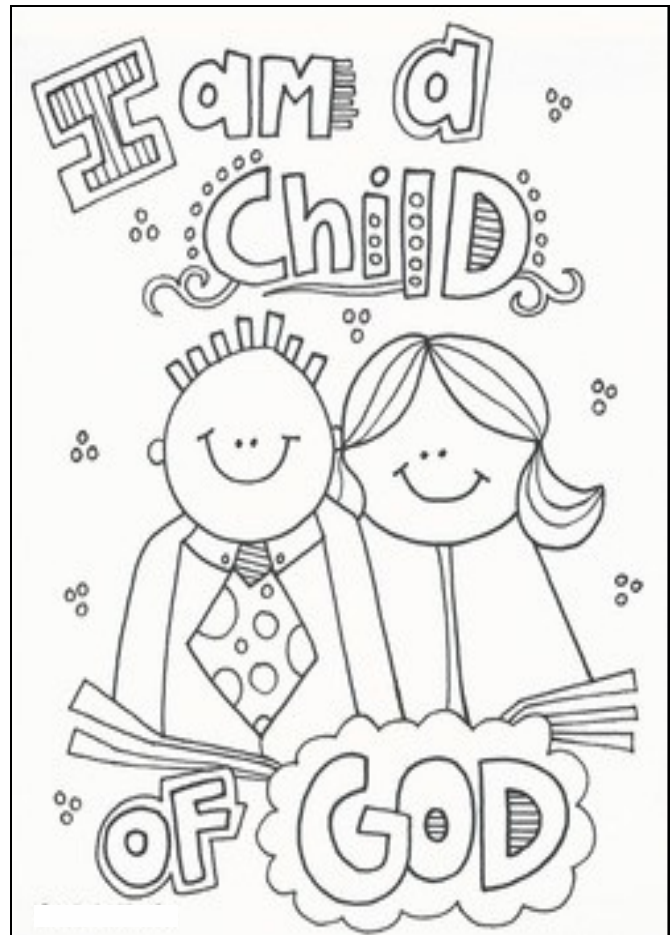
Sunday School Teachers, Assistants and Substitutes Needed



Sunday School Teachers & Substitutes Needed:

- Specific Needs: Pre-K/Kindergarten & Elementary teachers & substitutes
- Adults & teens age 16 and older are eligible
- Teachers rotate every other week or a few times a month
- Curriculum is very easy to use
- The kids are a lot of fun!
- Classes meet 10:00 am Sundays
- Contact: Mary Beth at MBTrivilino@verizon.net or call Church office

A coloring Page for You!



Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran
Sunday School 2023-2024 Student Registration and Information (Please Print)

Parents: _____

Address: _____

Family contact email address: _____

Phone Number [s]: _____ cell phone # _____

Child 1: _____ Date of birth: _____ Baptized? _____

September Grade and School: _____

Allergies / Special Needs: _____

Child 2: _____ Date of birth: _____ Baptized? _____

September Grade and School: _____

Allergies / Special Needs: _____

Child 3: _____ Date of birth: _____ Baptized? _____

September Grade and School: _____

Allergies / Special Needs: _____

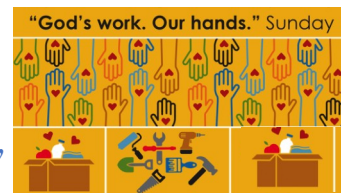
To whom should child/children be released after Sunday School if parents are not available?

Where/how can you be reached during the Sunday School hour in the event of an emergency?

Please add information for additional children in the family on a separate sheet of paper. Thank you.

*"Train children in the right way,
and when old, they will not stray."
Proverbs 22:6*

Social Ministries and Rally Day Service Project Healthy Snack Bags for Daily Bread Ministries



The ELCA marks September 10 as “God’s Work/Our Hands Sunday”—a day of service among congregations throughout the country. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Our Congregation’s Service Project runs from now through September 10, and it involves Sunday School families and the entire Congregation! We are once again collecting food and bottled water to fill Healthy Snack Bags for our friends at Daily Bread Ministries.

Parishioners are asked to donate food items from the list below that we will use to fill large lunch bags. These are due by September 3.

On Rally Day, September 10:

*Sunday School kids and families will meet in the Social Hall before the first Sunday School class to decorate the lunch bags.

*After the late liturgy, the **entire congregation is invited to the Social Hall for Refreshments** and to help stuff the Healthy Snack Bags and perhaps write a note of encouragement for the bags.

These Healthy Snack Bags will be distributed to our friends at Daily Bread Ministries in September.

Suggested items to donate for our Healthy Snack Bags:

- Bottled Water
- Beef jerky
- Applesauce or fruit cups
- Fruit snacks
- Granola bars
- Small packages of chips, cookies, rice Krispie treats, goldfish, etc
- Cheese or peanut butter crackers (Lance or other brands)
- Individually wrapped mints

The need for food at Daily Bread Ministries is greater than ever. This service project is a way for our Congregation to participate in God’s Work/Our Hands Day of Service and meet the needs our local community.

We are hoping to fill 100+ bags, so please donate what you can. Please make sure items are individually wrapped, and bring them to the Narthex **now through September 3**. Thank you!

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink” Matthew 25:35*

Environmental Stewardship

*“We see the despoiling of the environment as nothing less than the degradation of God’s gracious gift of creation.”
(ELCA Social Statement, Caring for creation, Vision, Hope and Justice, PT, !A)*



The ELCA states “We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are deeply concerned about the environment, locally and globally, as members of this church and as members of society”.

In response to this, we at Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church will do our part to be good stewards of our precious environment. The Social Ministry committee will strive to communicate ways that we can consciously do what we can to care for our planet.



Environmental Stewardship Opportunity #2

9 Ways to Reduce Plastic Pollution

The Southwestern Pennsylvania ELCA Synod’s Church in Society Committee cited a United Nations report estimating that only 9 percent of the world’s 9 billion tons of plastic is recycled. Most plastic, including disposable items discarded after being used once, wind up in landfills, oceans, waterways, including Pittsburgh’s three rivers.

The NRDC (National Resources Defense Council) gives us 9 easy ways to do our part to reduce plastic pollution that is destroying our planet.

1. Wean yourself off disposable plastics.

Ninety percent of the plastic items in our daily lives are used once and then chucked: grocery bags, plastic wrap, disposable cutlery, straws, coffee-cup lids. Take note of how often you rely on these products and replace them with reusable versions. It only takes a few times of bringing your own bags to the store, silverware to the office, or travel mug to Starbucks before it becomes habit.

2. Stop buying bottled water.

Each year, close to 20 billion plastic bottles are tossed in the trash. Carry a reusable bottle in your bag, and you’ll never be caught having to resort to a Poland Spring or Evian again. If you’re nervous about the quality of your local tap water, look for a model with a built-in filter.

3. Boycott microbeads.

Those little plastic scrubbers found in so many beauty products—facial scrubs, toothpaste, body washes—might look harmless, but their tiny size allows them to slip through water-treatment plants. Unfortunately, they also look just like food to some marine animals. Opt for products with natural exfoliants, like oatmeal or salt, instead.

Environmental Stewardship Opportunity #2 **(continued)**

4. Cook more.

Not only is it healthier, but making your own meals doesn't involve takeout containers or doggy bags. For those times when you do order in or eat out, tell the establishment you don't need any plastic cutlery or, for some serious extra credit, bring your own food-storage containers to restaurants for leftovers.

5. Purchase items secondhand.

New toys and electronic gadgets, especially, come with all kinds of plastic packaging—from those frustrating hard-to-crack shells to twisty ties. Search the shelves of thrift stores, neighborhood garage sales, or online postings for items that are just as good when previously used. You'll save yourself a few bucks, too.

6. Recycle (duh).

It seems obvious, but we're not doing a great job of it. For example, less than 14 percent of plastic packaging is recycled. Confused about what can and can't go in the bin? Check out the number on the bottom of the container. Most #1 (PET) and #2 (HDPE) plastic bottles and containers are commonly accepted by most curbside recycling companies. **REMEMBER**, Michael's Brother's Recycling accepts many items that are not collected at curbside recycling. Go to Michael Brothers located at 901 Horning Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236. See all the items accepted listed below and on the bulletin boards throughout the church.

At this location, you can recycle:

Glass
Plastics #1-7
Christmas lights
Aluminum/cans
Metal
Cardboard

Below are examples of many hard to recycle items that Michael Bros will accept:

Disposable utensils	yogurt containers
Cups/lids	prescription bottles/lids
Take-out containers	straws
Clam shells for berries, take-out, etc	coffee cup lids
Packaging for things like electronics	flower pots (cleaned)
Plastic caps-milk/juice cartons	Bread tabs

7. Support a bag tax or ban.

Urge your elected officials to follow the lead of those in San Francisco, Chicago, and close to 150 other cities and counties by introducing or supporting [legislation that would make plastic-bag use less desirable](#).

8. Buy in bulk.

Single-serving yogurts, travel-size toiletries, tiny packages of nuts—consider the product-to-packaging ratio of items you tend to buy often and select the bigger container instead of buying several smaller ones.

9. Put pressure on manufacturers.

Though we can make a difference through our own habits, corporations obviously have a much bigger footprint. If you believe a company could be smarter about its packaging, make your voice heard. Write a letter, send a tweet, or hit them where it really hurts: Give your money to a more sustainable competitor.



I would like you to consider participating in 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.



August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Pentecost 10 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship	7	8	9 4:00 Farmers Market	10	11	12
13 Pentecost 11 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship	14	15	16 1:00-3:00 pm Global Links 4:00 Farmers Market	17	18	19
20 Pentecost 12 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 5:00 pm Adult Dinner	21	22	23 4:00 Farmers Market	24	25	26
27 Pentecost 13 Blessing of Backpacks 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 11:15 Council Meeting	28 700 Catechetic's Orientation Meeting	29	30 4:00 Farmers Market	31		



1 “I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39). What a powerful message of love and hope for us to embrace throughout life and proclaim far and wide. Praise God!

2 Pray for ELCA Justice for Women and its partners as they help our church and society address sexism, work for gender justice, advocate for change and encourage people of all genders to work together.

3 Pray for an end to the wildfires across Canada and for the relief of all people and communities affected. Give thanks for the selfless service of firefighters in Canada and from more than 10 other nations, including the United States, as they work together to protect life and respond to this widespread natural disaster.

4 Pray for the elected leaders of our nation, that they will discern what is right and good and serve all people, without prejudice.

5 Pray for an end to the Russia-Ukraine War, the conflict in Sudan and political unrest in other nations. Ask God to help us value and respect one another, exercise compassion and generosity, and find ways to work together to address common problems and challenges.

6 How can we balance our needs against those of our neighbors? Pray that we will learn to care for ourselves without compromising our compassion and generosity toward those in need.

7 Pray for teachers, school staff and administrators in public and faith-based schools as they prepare for a new academic year. Give thanks that they have chosen a vocation of service, education and care for children and youth of all backgrounds and abilities.

8 Pray for refugees around the world displaced and unsettled — sometimes for years — as a result of war and violence, natural disaster, economic crisis, changing climate and ethnic or political persecution.

9 Remember in prayer children, youth and adults impacted by outdoor ministry experiences; pray that they will return to their homes, congregations, schools and communities with rekindled faith, confidence and enthusiasm to serve their neighbors in need.

10 Ask the Spirit to prompt us, throughout our busy days, to pause and behold God's presence and attentive love.

11 Pray for church leaders and volunteers who prepare fall programs and community ministries in congregations across the country, that their efforts will bear abundant fruit, spread the good news of Jesus Christ, strengthen the faith of people of all ages and serve the diverse needs of our neighbors.

12 *International Youth Day* Join siblings in Christ around the world in praying for young people, giving thanks for their gifts and contributions, and lifting up their concerns and suffering.

13 “Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’” (Matthew 14:27). Amid fear, loneliness and shaken faith, turn to God in prayer and trust that God is present and attentive to whatever is going on in our lives and the world.

14 Give thanks for nurses, who care for the needs of body, mind and spirit. Lift up the names of nurses in your congregation, in other Lutheran congregations and in other faith communities. Pray for the Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association and its work to equip faith-community nurses and to foster health and wellness ministries in congregations.

15 Remember in prayer and give thanks for ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) volunteers serving with our companion churches in Senegal, the United Kingdom, Argentina/Uruguay and Jerusalem/West Bank.

16 Give thanks for God's amazing ways of getting our attention, from the earth-shaking to the silence Elijah experienced on a mountaintop.

17 Pray that, through Scripture and the example of Jesus, we will learn to be generous with our time, money, resources and lives for the sake of our neighbors in need, supporting special ministries and the growth of our church.

18 Pray for strength and faith to proclaim boldly our redemption through faith alone, independent of our work, saying the right words or living a good life.

19 Ask the Spirit to give us wisdom and discipline to care for wildlife and natural resources, for the well-being of creation and humankind.

20 Pray that our Lutheran theology, traditions and practices will not present obstacles for our neighbors and people from other faith traditions. Ask the Spirit to guide what we do and say so that we communicate our faith clearly and simply, reflecting God's boundless love and forgiveness and demonstrating respect for our neighbor.

21 Pray for companion synod relationships, which connect ELCA synods and congregations with international companions, enabling them to nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources.

22 Pray for people of all ages and backgrounds who struggle with addiction, recovery and sobriety; pray that they will find effective immediate and long-term assistance and that they will have supportive and nonjudgmental people and communities to turn to — including us.

23 “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1). It is human nature to notice how we are different from one another. Pray for the courage to trust in the new selves we receive in Christ and for the wisdom to recognize the blessings of living in unity.

24 Pray for the work of synod bishops, staff and volunteers as they equip and encourage church leaders and congregations in diverse contexts to share the good news of Christ, invite others to believe and follow, and respond with compassion and empathy to neighbors in need — no matter how complex those needs might be.

25 Pray that we will be wise, just and responsible in developing and using technology and will recognize that our faith, curiosity, intellect and creativity are gifts from God, to be used for the well-being of all people and for God's glory.

26 Give thanks for the six Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service welcome centers across the country, which provide asylum-seekers with case management, health care and counseling, legal assistance, school enrollment for children and youth, and emergency food, housing and financial assistance.

27 “[Jesus] asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’” (Matthew 16:13). Who do you say that Jesus is? Ask the Spirit to further reveal to us, through Scripture and personal witness, who Jesus is, especially when we are unsure or are reaching for words to express our faith.

28 Many seasonal workers are heading home, back to school or toward new employment. Give thanks for their work and service throughout the summer; pray that they will find employment, housing and benefits that sustain them and their families; and pray that their spirits will be renewed and sustained in welcoming communities of faith.

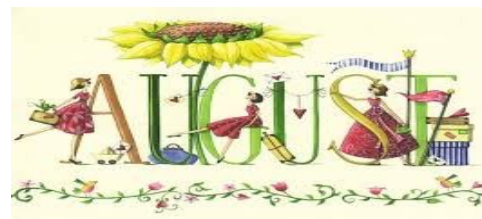
29 Praise God for the diverse gifts of our siblings in Christ. Give thanks that our unique gifts and abilities intersect to spread the gospel, serve our neighbors in need, and grow and strengthen our communities of faith.

30 Remember in prayer students who live with a range of physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities. Pray that they will receive caring and skilled support, affirmation of their gifts and abilities, and inclusion and encouragement in our congregations.

31 Give thanks for our church's history of affirming the value of lifelong education. Give thanks for teachers who nurture faith, teach life skills and help people of all ages use their gifts and passions to serve neighbors in need and do God's work in the world.

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Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Kurt Kusserow

Bishop
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

The Reverend Douglas M. Heagy

Senior Pastor

Dr. Christopher Keenan, DMA

Director of Music and Organist

Mr. Larry Allen

Director of Music and Organist Emeritus

Mrs. Kris Malia

Parish Secretary



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Adult Dinner & Fellowship



Sunday, August 20th

5:00 pm

Plan to join us for dinner and good fellowship!

Please sign up Sheet in the Narthex– or call the Church Office to RSVP.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 27

8:30 and 10:00 am



Rally Day & Snack Bag Service Project

Sunday, September 10

More information in this issue and in the September *Voice*