



the *Voice* parish newsletter



Then on October 17, 520 BC, the LORD sent another message through the prophet Haggai.... –Haggai 1:15–2:1.

For the most part, events in the lives of the Bible prophets are set in general time periods. More precise dates are found in the books of Isaiah and Amos, but nothing compares to the specificity in Haggai. The translation of the verses above is contemporary, but accurate. How interesting to look back in time to the exact day of a month over 2,500 years ago! On this date, the prophet Haggai spoke words of encouragement to God's people.

An enormous span separates October 22, 2023, the date of our Annual Meeting, from October 17, 520 BC. Think of all that's happened between then and now; think of the joys and sufferings filling up these years of human history. Haggai spoke words of encouragement in this month of October long ago. What words of hope and encouragement might we share during our Annual Meeting? We know, as it was in the time of Haggai, that we face challenges. Yet, looking across 2,500 years, we must stand in awe for what God has done and continues to do. Though ours is a frightful, divisive time, filled with warnings about the earth's future, we have an assurance in Christ that our future and hope rest securely in God.

Dear members, join your brothers and sisters in Christ for our Annual Meeting on October 22 at 9:30 AM. Kindly fulfill your membership vows; make the effort to attend. To ensure all may vote, members will receive an email in the coming days with the option of early voting (by a simple email reply) on the motions we need to approve. Please vote early by email or in person on October 22. A quorum of votes must be reached to fulfill the rubric of our by-laws. If you have questions, please contact the church office.

Our hybrid approach of voting by email or in person has proven useful since the time of the pandemic. We will continue to vote in this way until it's no longer necessary. In this month long ago, Haggai spoke with an encouraging voice. Let us encourage each other in the same way in the coming year. God blesses us with faith to endure. Let's make the most of our time, loving God and each other.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy

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



October, 2023

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

What do we really own?

'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' --**Job:1:21**

There's the joke about the nosy neighbor attending a rich woman's funeral. Peering into the coffin with a friend, he asked, "How much money did she leave?" The friend smiled and replied, "All of it, of course!"

As Job laments, we come into the world naked and leave the same way. We may be dressed in our best clothing on our way out, but we take it to the grave, not the afterlife.

The joke and Job reveal a basic concept of stewardship: We don't really own anything. We may take possession of it for a period of time, but we eventually leave it for others.

Yet we spend so much of our energy and life accumulating more and more – as if we were going to have it forever, as we were going to live forever. The danger is that absorbed with accumulating wealth, we shortchange the most valuable treasures – loving the Lord our God with all our being and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

That's why the Bible consistently warns us about wealth. Jesus repeatedly points out the pitfalls. Money and possessions can turn us inward, stunting our growth and preventing us from being the people God created us to be.

Generosity is the preventative cure for this malady. The Bible counsels that tithing – giving away 10 percent of our income – is a good benchmark for faithful giving (although on several occasions Jesus told his disciples to give away ALL their possessions).

Giving 10 percent, or any amount substantial enough to be sacrificial, is a declaration that you are free from the power that money might have over you. Because however much money you can accumulate in life, you will be like the rich woman in the joke: You will leave it all.

--Rob Blezard

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Love. Grow. Serve.

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.



MONDAY NIGHT FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP
Registration limit is 12 people

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
November 6

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
(mteboluth@aol.com) the church office.

Join us to discover together who we are in Christ!

Beginning in September...

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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

Learning to pray from Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures

10:15 AM-11:30 AM

October 5

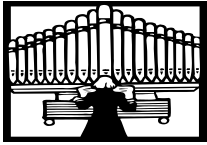
Solomon’s Prayer

October 12

The Lord’s Prayer

Led by Pastor Heagy, this study will include video, Bible readings, handouts, and discussions on prayer. Participants will learn forms of prayer for the purpose of beginning and strengthening a piety of daily prayer. All are welcome.





Musical Musings October 2023

Something to do before worship begins: Pages 1189-1194 of our worship hymnal (found near the end of the book) contain the alphabetical list of all the hymn composers. Take the time to look and the names, A to Z, and you will find among the many you don't recognize some that you do. *Thomas Aquinas, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Andrae Crouch, Tommy Dorsey, Martin Luther, Twila Paris, and Desmond Tutu* all composed hymns found in our hymnal. *Francis of Assisi*, whose festival day is celebrated this month, composed Hymn # 835, *All Creatures, Worship God Most High*. His life and love of God and nature will be remembered on Sunday, October 1, during our Pet Blessing worship in the Social Hall. Whether you have a pet or not, plan to join the meows, woofs, and cock-a-doodle-doo's on this day as we praise God together.

On Sunday, October 22, our music director, **Chris Keenan**, will be out of town. Our "guest" organist and director on this day will be our Director of Music Emeritus, **Larry Allen**. After serving with us for over 17 years, Larry retired in 2022. In retirement, he will join us when possible when Chris is away. Plan to attend and greet Larry after worship on October 22. We are blessed to have Chris and Larry as a part of our church.

Welcome back Larry on Sunday, October 22!

SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: OCTOBER, 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

October 8-Crucifer

8:30 Henry Keplar

10:00 Nico Provins

October 15- Crucifer

8:30 Addy Wetzel

10:00 Xavier Graybill

October 22-Crucifer

8:30 Mackenna Cercone

10:00 Luke Frankovitch

October 29—Reformation Crucifer

8:30 Cameron Mayer

10:00 Milo Bucher



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 YouTube channel

The Word of the Lord

- October 1 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Feast of St. Francis/ Pet Blessing
 Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
 Psalm 25:1-9
 Philippians 2:1-13
 Matthew 21:23-32
- October 8 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Isaiah 5:1-7
 Psalm 80:7-15
 Philippians 3:4b-14
 Matthew 21:33-46
- October 15 Festival of Saint Luke
 Isaiah 25:1-9
 Psalm 23
 Philippians 4:1-9
 Matthew 22:1-14
- October 22 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
 Isaiah 45:1-7
 Psalm 96:1-9
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
 Matthew 22:15-22
- October 29 Reformation Sunday
 Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 46
 Romans 3:19-28
 John 8:31-36

Sunday School at 10:00

*Remember the Sabbath Day
 to keep it Holy!*

Catechetical Classes

Catechetical instruction in preparation for the Public Affirmation of Baptism, the rite also known as Confirmation continues throughout October

Level 1 classes resuming Tuesday, October 17

Level 2 classes Thursdays 4:30 pm

Attendance at weekly class sessions, Sunday worship, and Sunday School are requirements. The full set of requirements will be given to students at the first class session. All catechumens will be scheduled to serve at the Altar for worship liturgies. Please note: 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.

GLOBAL LINKS
Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

Saturday, October 14
10-12 pm

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

Sign-up sheets have been placed in the Narthex or if you are interested in volunteering.

Please contact Sara Dougherty at 412-523-1499 or tjdsjd@verizon.net if any questions.



Hunger never takes a break...

While back to school shopping please continue to remember the ministry of the Food Bank at St. Michael and All Angels' Lutheran in Spring Garden on Pittsburgh's North side with your contributions of non-perishable food, cleaning, laundry products and monetary donations. When making monetary donations, please designate to St. Michael Food Bank or the ELCA World Hunger ministries using a *designated gift envelope* in your pew. We also thank Clarence Gourley who make the deliveries to the Food Bank in Spring Garden.



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:**

God, our Father, you know that we, your children, live in a fallen creation midst danger and sickness. We are often surrounded by darkness and the shadow of fear. And yet we have no reason to falter, for we trust that your Fatherly care cradles us and keeps us safe. With Angelic attention, you keep watch of our bodily temples with winged wonder. With the splendor of Your shelter, bring healing into the lives of:

Craig Elias; Andy Kelemen; Dagmar Gerst

*NOTE: Please contact the church office if there are any changes for the prayer list. Names will remain on the prayer list for **one month**. If a person is to remain on the prayer list or to be added, just call the church office and let us know.*

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the November issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by **Sunday, October 15th**. Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.

Fourth Quarter Editions *Christ in Our Home*, our congregational family's daily devotional, will be available in the Narthex. You are invited to take a copy for personal use and encouraged to use it daily in your meditative life.



Mt. Lebanon Farmers' Market

[sponsored by the Lions' Club]
Wednesdays 3:30—6:30 PM
The Farmers' Market operates through October 25th.

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.

Sunday, October 1
Pet Blessing observed at 10:00 am
Social Hall

Sunday, October 15
Saint Luke, observed both liturgies
Liturgies of Word, Sacrament and Healing

Annual Meeting October 22
Hybrid Meeting-Vote In-Person or by Email

Reformation Sunday - October 29
Bible Presentation at 10:00 Liturgy



*You're Invited...To the
Sunday Morning Fellowship*

Each Sunday worshippers have the opportunity to greet one another and welcome visitors at our:

Sunday Morning Fellowship in the Foyer. Join us in between the early and late Liturgies to share greetings and conversations with friends and visitors. Refreshments are available for all.

The Sunday Morning Fellowship also provides opportunities to volunteer:

- * Sponsor the Coffee Project of Lutheran World Relief, helping small growers, their families and communities through the fair trade of coffee.
- * Volunteer to set up and clean the Fellowship refreshments table. It's easy to do and a member of the Hospitality Committee will show you how. Also, written instructions are available.
- * Provide sweet (or healthy) treats for all to enjoy. (Gluten free and nut free treats are also welcomed)

If you'd like to help you can sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office, or contact the church office.

A Martin Luther Coffee Hour
Stop by the church library between services on...
Reformation Sunday, October 29th!
Find out about our *Martin Luther Collection.*



Over the summer months the library was reorganized to make browsing easier. Learn about other changes during this session.

Hope to see you there!

Bibles for First Graders & New Students

Our First Graders will be presented with their very own Bibles on Reformation Sunday, October 29 at the beginning of the 10:00 Liturgy. If you have an older child who has not yet received a Bible, please contact the church office as soon as possible so that we may present one to them as well.

Parents of College Students

Please **update** the mailing addresses of your college-age students. We plan mailings to them this year. Please send addresses to the Church office at MtLeboLuth@aol.com

Daily Bread Meal...



A traditional Thanksgiving menu is being planned for the next Daily Bread Meal on November 19, 2023. Watch for future announcements for more details. Monetary donations are now being accepted. Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex beginning November. A special thank you to all our volunteers and donors who support this vital ministry and in serving those in need.

The Annual Congregational Meeting

of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

OCTOBER 22, 2023

9:30 AM

Annual Reports will be emailed in advance which members are encouraged to read.

Remember the mission of Christ in your prayers.

[This year we will have a hybrid meeting. Members may attend and vote in-person or vote by email in advance of the meeting.](#)

Please note:

At least 2 weeks before the email meeting, church members will receive by email the 2024 council member nominations

A Special Note To Share....



Rally Day/ELCA "God's Work, Our Hands" Social Ministry Project

Thank you to all in our congregational family who came out to participate in our Rally Day service project this past Sunday. ELCA congregations across the country participated in a day of Social Ministry through the "Gods Work, Our Hands" campaign. Our church created 160 healthy snack bags that were distributed to our friends at Daily Bread Ministries on the Northside. These bags help to fill hunger gaps for the homeless community. Thanks also to all who made food contributions and for the Thrivent grant that helped make this project possible!

Chili Cook-Off Thanks!

Many thanks to all those involved in our
Chili Cook-off and
Rally Day Service Project.

Thanks to Michelle & Pete Schocker
for organizing and hosting the Chili Cook-off,
and to all those who brought food to our event.

Congratulations to our winning chefs.

Rally Day Thanks!

We kicked off our 2023/24 academic year on Rally Day, September 10. It was wonderful to see everyone!

Many thanks to our Sunday School Teachers, Assistants and Education volunteers! See full list below. Thanks to our Property and Education Volunteers for sprucing up our classrooms and Education wing.

Its' not too late to register your kids for Sunday School. We have classes for Pre K/K through 8th grade. We are off to a great start, so join us Sunday mornings at 10:00.

Partners with Parents in Christian Education

Pre-K/Kindergarten (ages 4-6) – Claire Bruno

Elementary (1st-4th grades) – Lizzy Koval, Jessica Porter

Middle Grades (5th-8th grades) – Mary Beth Trivilino (*Sunday School Director*)

Substitutes – Jen Cercone, Jen Harlacher, Julia Nelson

Assistants – Milo Bucher, Gabriel Provins, Nico Provins

High School Coffee Hour– Julia Nelson

Kids Choir – Carol Vogeley & Barb Heagy

Service Projects – Debbie Hazlett

First Communion Instruction & Adult Bible Studies -- Pastor Heagy

Church Librarian & Educational Ministries Chairperson – Melodie Frankovitch

Cradle Roll -- Normajeane Graybill

Education Bulletin Board – Cindy Zuch

Catechetics (*Confirmation*) Instruction – Pastor Heagy, with Mary Beth Trivilino & Ann Ultsch

--Educational Ministries

Educational Ministries reach, teach, and nurture all of God's people as we equip them to be disciples of Christ for the Glory of God.

What Lutherans Believe about Christian Education

Lutherans believe that Christian Education:

- guides and supports the whole people of God through a lifelong process of forming faith in Jesus Christ;
- equips believers to proclaim God's grace revealed in Jesus Christ for all people;
- helps individuals to live faithfully in relationships with God, one another and all of creation;
- is rooted in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions that have shaped our faith and continue to be passed from generation to generation.

What Lutherans Believe about the Bible

- The words of the Bible point us to the Word incarnate, Jesus Christ.
- When we read the Bible, we do more than *learn* about God—we *meet* God!
- God has given us the Bible: Psalm 119:105; Luke 11:28, Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:15
- The Bible alone is the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged.
- God speaks to us through the Bible so that we may believe *in* Jesus Christ as Lord.

It all Began at Baptism

By the waters of Holy Baptism we are claimed as God's own and brought into a new community.

Parents have been given the privilege of primary care for God's gift of their children. In Baptism parents agree to teach and model for their children a faith based on Scripture, the Apostle's Creed, the Ten Commandments, worship attendance, and to provide for their instruction in the Christian faith.

Teachers in our ministry of Christian Education partner with parents to nurture an increase in understanding God's boundless love, acceptance and forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

Youth Service Projects

As Christians, we are called to be Jesus' disciples in the world. We practice discipleship through prayer, worship, Bible reading, sharing time & talents, and serving others. *We do these things in Christian love, and understand that they are not requirements to receive the gift of God's grace.*

We hope that in serving others we share our love for God and our neighbors, and that these experiences will provide opportunities to meet friends, learn and grow in our spiritual lives. Youth Service Projects will be coordinated with the Social Ministries Committee, Sunday School program and Catechetics classes. Look for project dates in *the Voice*, bulletin and Church web site.

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

Annual Thanksgiving Outreach Project

Our Congregation will once again provide Thanksgiving food to community members who participate in the St. Michaels Food Pantry.

The 2023 Thanksgiving Project will begin Sunday, October 15. Please bring your food and gift card donations to **The Giving Market** in the Narthex by **Sunday, November 5**.

Items we are collecting:

- **SMALL CANS:** vegetables, fruits, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes/yams
- **SMALL BOXES:** cornbread, mashed potatoes, stuffing, rice mixes
- **ENVELOPES or CANS:** gravy
We have eliminated glass jars due to breakage during travel ... thank you!
- **Giant Eagle** gift cards (prefer \$10. to \$30. range)

Thanksgiving Craft and Prayer kits will be available at **The Giving Market** to "Take and Make" at home. Please return the completed crafts by **Sunday, November 5**.

The Congregation is invited to a Service Project Brunch where we will assemble the Thanksgiving Project "Baskets":
Sunday, November 12
11:00am *after the 10:00 Worship Service*
in the Social Hall

Please contact Deb Hazlett
drhazett@verizon.net if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

St. Michaels Food Pantry is extremely grateful for our Congregation's continued help throughout the year, especially at the Thanksgiving season.



Reformation Sunday October 29



Let's celebrate: For Lutherans and many other Protestants in America, the last Sunday in October is celebrated as Reformation Sunday. Reformation Sunday honors Martin Luther's bold action on October 31st, 1517. On that date Luther posted his statement of faith, known as the 95 Theses, on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This was the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Reformation was first celebrated on varied dates. After the Thirty Years' War, in 1667 John George II, Elector of Saxony, ordered a Reformation Festival to be celebrated on October 31st. In modern times, the observance was transferred to the nearest Sunday before or after October 29.

Psalm 46, appointed for the day is the basis for Luther's most famous hymn *Ein feste Burg is unser Gott* [A Mighty Fortress is Our God]. Join us in worship on October 29th as we remember Martin Luther and celebrate Reformation Sunday.

Castle Church -1517
Wittenberg, Germany



OCTOBER YOUTH GROUP MEETING

Hello Youth Group! We would like to invite all middle school and high school youth to come help us celebrate Fall by joining us for our Trax Farm fun on October 22 from 12-3 pm. We'll have an a-maze-ing afternoon doing worship, corn mazes, and pumpkin picking. Look for more information to come soon. Please contact Julia Nelson if you have any questions at:

jmnelson26@comcast.net





Worship Liturgies of Word, Sacrament and Healing

in observance of

The Feast Day of Saint Luke

Evangelist and Physician

Sunday, October 15 at 8:30 and 10:00 AM

*Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of
The church to pray over him And anoint him with oil
In the name of the Lord."*

James 5:14

Liturgies of healing, a practice begun in our congregation in 1986, will be led again on Sunday, October 16, in observance of the Feast Day of Saint Luke. **Both Sunday morning liturgies will emphasize healing on this day.**

The liturgy of healing is based on the ministry of Christ, the nature and call of the Church, our Lutheran heritage, and a deep desire to touch more deeply the lives of those in our congregational family, community, and nation who are hurting and in need of healing.

Included in these liturgies are hymns, psalms, Biblical readings, a brief homily and prayers, including a remembrance of those who suffer; those recovering from sickness [whether it be of heart, mind or body]; those who are addicted; those who must face decisions about appropriate treatment and those who are caregivers.

Participants are those who desire healing in any form, those who wish to intercede on another's behalf, and those who desire to be a part of the Church's healing community in the world.

So that each worshiper might understand more fully the ministry of our Lord and His Church in healing, this article will provide additional biblical perspectives on healing.

Jesus and Healing

Healing works occupied a great part of our Lord's activities in the three years of His public ministry. Whenever Jesus preached the good news, He also healed the sick: "And where he came ... they laid the sick ... and besought him ... and as many as He touched were made well ..." [Saint Mark 6:56]

Jesus' Disciples and Healing

Jesus said, "He who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father" [Saint John 14:12] and commanded them specifically to preach and "heal the sick" [Saint Matthew 10:7].

Healing and Early Christians

The first Christians followed the works of Jesus and prayed that the works of God might be revealed. Besides the healings in Jerusalem, the healing work of Philip in Samaria [Acts 8:5-8] and Paul in Ephesus and on the island of Malta are noted [Acts 19:9-12; 28:9].

Healing and the Church

The gift of healing is much different from other gifts of the Spirit mentioned in the New Testament [among them prophesy, preaching, teaching, administration, hospitality, and generosity].

The New Testament does not speak of a special gift by the Lord to an individual, but the gift of healing as a gift which the church may use and administer through its representative.

In other words, the gift of healing is not given to one man or woman, but to the Church!

Prayer and Healing

The primary emphasis is on the prayer of faith. It will give the sick the help needed; that is, the help God wants to provide.

The Laying on of Hands

The laying on of hands [incorporated into the Healing Service for those who desire] is noted in both the Old and New Testaments.

Jacob is described as blessings the sons of Joseph by the laying on of hands in Genesis 48. And according to the command of the Lord, Moses put his hand on Joshua. Jesus often used the laying on of hands when he healed the sick [see St. Mark 1:41-2, St. Luke 5:13, St. Matthew 9:29, and St. John 9:6, for examples].

Jesus also told the believers to use the laying on of hands when they healed the sick. "And these signs will accompany those who believe; in my name they will cast out demons ... they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." [St. Mark 17:17-18].

It should also be noted that in the evangelical church, we also use the laying on of hands at baptism, absolution, confirmation, and ordination.

Anointing with Oil

Anointing with oil may be compared to the visible means Jesus often used to evidence the accomplishment of healing, which might not be visible.

One must remember however, that the *outward* means, such as anointing with oil, *is not necessary* for healing. However, James 5:14 clearly states "Let him call the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."

In the liturgy of healing, those who desire *may* receive anointing with oil by the tracing of the sign of the Cross on the forehead.

Healing and Ritual Forms

There is no prescribed ritual or exact formula which must be followed in order to receive the gift of healing. However, New Testament writings do provide for the centrality of faith and prayer, with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. We follow the format prescribed in the *Occasional Services* accompaniment to the book of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

You should remember

- ◆ **Participation** is completely voluntary.
- ◆ **Requests for prayer** for specific individuals not able to be present should be made to the Pastor in advance. [NOTE: permission from the individual must be obtained.]
- ◆ **You may invite family and friends** to the Feast Day of Saint Luke.
- ◆ **Our liturgy of healing does not replace** the need for everyone to keep regular appointments with medical doctors.

All Saints' Sunday Sunday, November 5th



On All Saint's Sunday, it is our tradition to observe one of the liturgical treasures of the historic church. **We will have ONE liturgy on Sunday, November 5, at 9:30 AM.**

During this liturgy, prayers will be made and candles will be lighted remembering by name those who have died *since last All Saints' Day, whether or not they were members of our congregational family.* [Note: Nov. 1 is the actual day of All Saints] Also, we will remember those who have given their lives in service to our country.

If you have experienced the death of a family member or friend since last All Saints' Day and wish to have them remembered on this All Saints' Sunday, please use the form below and submit it to the Church Office no later than Monday, October 23rd.

Remembering before our Heavenly Father those of His children who have completed their lives on earth and who now share in the treasures of His eternal and glorious Kingdom.

All Saints' Sunday Liturgy November 5 / 9:30 AM

Please remember :
[please print]

Name _____

Died _____

Name _____

Died _____

Submitted
by _____

Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi

Sunday, October 1st Blessing of Pets at 10:00 in the Social Hall

We will be collecting supplies for Animal Friends Shelter on Sunday, October 1st when we celebrate The Blessing of the Animals. Supplies are distributed to food banks for people who might have to surrender their animals without our help. Supplies also help the sheltered animals at this "non-euthanizing" shelter. Dogs, cats and rabbits are kept and cared for at this shelter until they find homes, no matter how long it takes. Some members of this congregation volunteer their time at Animal Friends.

Supplies needed are:

- small bags of cat and dog food
- canned cat and dog food
- scoopable litter
- new cat toys and dog toys
- cat treats and dog treats

ALL FOOD PRODUCTS MUST BE UNOPENED



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.



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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.





OCTOBER 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>1 Pentecost 17 8:30 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Pet Blessing Liturgy Social Hall</p>	<p>2 7:00 Book Study</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 3:30 Farmers Market 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>5 10:00 Bible Study 4:30-5:30 Catechetics 2</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 MLWVC Trunk or Treat 10-12—parking lot</p>
<p>8 Pentecost 18 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Sunday School</p>	<p>9 7:00 Book Study</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 3:30 Farmers Market 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>12 10:00 Bible Study 4:30-5:30 Catechetics 2</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Funeral Building Closed 8:00 am—12 noon</p>
<p>15 Pentecost 19 Feast of St. Luke 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Sunday School</p>	<p>16 7:00 Book Study</p>	<p>17 4:30-5:30 Catechetics 1</p>	<p>18 3:30 Farmers Market 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>19 10:00 Bible Study 4:30-5:30 Catechetics 2</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Pentecost 20 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:30 Annual Congregation Mtg 10:00 Sunday School</p>	<p>23 7:00 Book Study</p>	<p>24 4:30-5:30 Catechetics 1</p>	<p>25 3:30 Farmers Market 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>26 4:30-5:30 Catechetics 2</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Reformation Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour in Library 10:00 Sunday School</p>	<p>30 7:00 Book Study</p>	<p>31</p>				



1 Ask the Spirit to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ and renew our trust in the authority of his teachings and actions as the Son of God, born among us for our salvation.

2 Remember in prayer those who have suffered tragedy, displacement and loss as a result of the wildfires in Maui. Ask God to stir their hope and strength for the long recovery ahead and inspire our generosity in supporting relief and rebuilding efforts, including the work of Lutheran Disaster Response and the Pacifica Synod.

3 “Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4). Pray that our lives might reflect the selflessness of Jesus and the work of the Spirit, which enable us to act with compassion and empathy for the well-being of our neighbor, our communities and the church.

4 *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi* Pray for the Spirit to stir within us humility, generosity and respect for our neighbors in need and for all living creatures. Give thanks for pets that provide joy and companionship and for service animals that benefit people with physical and cognitive disabilities.

5 Pray for those gathering for the Center of Addiction & Faith annual conference in Bloomington, Minn., including rostered ministers and lay leaders, health care professionals, addiction specialists, people in recovery and those who love people affected by addiction. Pray that we might grow in our awareness of addiction and respond with compassion.

6 Praise God for the love and mercy woven into the Bible, pray that we might share God's story and the good news of Jesus Christ everywhere, and ask the Spirit to inspire our belief, faith and awe. “We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might and the wonders that he has done” (Psalm 78:4).

7 Pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger in feeding the hungry and connecting people with education, health care, clean water and sustaining sources of income. Give thanks for our partners in this work, including global companion churches, the Lutheran World Federation, Bread for the World, Church World Service and Lutheran World Relief.

8 Jesus, the Son of God, was humble yet strong, and endured suffering and death to be resurrected for our sake. This is the cornerstone of our faith and salvation. Praise God and sing with thanksgiving and joy for all to hear.

9 *Indigenous Peoples' Day* Remember in prayer and give thanks for Indigenous communities that have lived in the Americas and other parts of the world for thousands of years. Pray that we will not waver in our commitment to repentance, reconciliation, healing and unity as neighbors and children of God.

10 Pray for a peaceful resolution to the war in Ukraine, and be mindful of how it impacts every nation and our daily lives.

11 Praise God for our faith in Jesus Christ, who frees us from the restraints and shortcomings of our past so that we can move forward in our baptismal journey of connecting our faith with everyday life, serving neighbors in need, spreading hope and living with gratitude.

12 Ask God to guide and, when needed, temper our words so that others will know God's love and forgiveness and the truth of the gospel through what we say. “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).

13 Pray for the vitality and effectiveness of our seminaries as they prepare leaders who will respond to God's call, equipping congregations and other communities of faith to nurture disciples of Christ and do God's work in the world.

14 Pray for our neighbors and siblings in Christ who are overwhelmed by confusion, conflict and suffering. Ask the Spirit to make us bearers of hope, encouragement and wisdom for our neighbors, reflecting the trustworthy light of Jesus Christ and the comforting love of God.

15 We trust in the promise of eternal life with God. Pray that, rather than take this gift for granted, we might be inspired to live in joy and gratitude, sharing that joy with others and proclaiming what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

16 Remember in prayer the 131 ELCA missionary households and 25 Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers who serve alongside our siblings in Christ and global companions in 45 countries.

17 “Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times” (Psalm 106:3). Ask the Spirit to fill us with love and reverence for our neighbors as children of God, that people of all backgrounds, abilities, ages, beliefs, needs and circumstances might be treated with respect, fairness and compassion.

18 Give thanks for the gifts and service of military chaplains, who care for U.S. military [personnel and their families](#) across our nation and in their countries of deployment.

19 Give thanks for writers, editors and photographers who serve the church by sharing the gospel, telling stories of faith and service, inspiring us and revealing how God works through our church, congregations and siblings in Christ.

20 Pray for those whose lives and communities have been forever changed by severe weather and wildfires, and who are immersed in the long, demanding work of rebuilding their lives and communities, here and around the world.

21 Ask God to bless the work of the Christian Education Network of the ELCA and its members, professionals and volunteers who are involved in lifelong faith formation ministries in congregations and ELCA-affiliated organizations.

22 Pray that we will be obedient and loyal to God and, at the same time, respond to God's call to live as responsible, involved citizens in our communities and the world.

23 Give thanks for Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of the ELCA, and pray for their ministries, which nurture faith, promote healing and wholeness, help people discern their spiritual gifts and vocations, and equip them to serve as disciples of Christ.

24 Pray for our congregations and synods, affiliated ministries and organizations, and full communion partners that we might encourage and support one another, share resources and ideas, and work together to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

25 Pray that God will further the work of our church's AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) for welcoming and protecting migrant children and their families, accompanying them in court, advocating for just and humane immigration policies and supporting companions in Latin America who care for deported and returned migrants in their countries of origin.

26 “Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples” (Psalm 96:2-3). Ask the Spirit for the words we need to share our faith and tell God's story of love, hope and forgiveness.

27 Ask God to make us a dynamic and engaged church of the present and future, driven by God's redemptive love to be attentive to the world and culture and agile in how we proclaim the gospel and do God's work in the world.

28 Give thanks for grandparents who inspire our faith, share their wisdom and gifts, care for grandchildren and enrich our communities of faith with diverse perspectives and ideas.

29 *Reformation Sunday* Give thanks for Martin Luther and other Protestant reformers who, at significant risk, challenged traditions and practices of the church that strayed from Scripture and proclaimed that God's love and forgiveness are ensured through Jesus Christ.

30 Pray for ELCA World Hunger's Education and Networking Grants, which assist congregations, synods and partner organizations throughout the United States and the Caribbean in developing education and service-learning programs that deepen our understanding of hunger and poverty.

31 *Reformation Day* “Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures” (Martin Luther). Lift up prayers of thanksgiving and praise for God's grace, which comes to us as a gift and sets us free, lifting our spirits and restoring our relationships with God.

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

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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



The Annual Congregational Meeting

of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church



OCTOBER 22, 2023
9:30 AM



Annual Reports will be emailed in advance which members are encouraged to read.

Remember the mission of Christ in your prayers.

[This year we will have a hybrid meeting. Members may attend and vote in-person or vote by email in advance of the meeting.](#)

Please note:

At least 2 weeks before the email meeting, church members will receive by email the 2024 council member nominations and the proposed 2024 budget. Check your email box in the coming weeks.