

the Voice parish newsletter



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



... in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

—Genesis 1:27

In his book, *Three Big Bangs*, Holmes Rolston III outlines the history of the universe as *matter-energy* (Bang 1); *life* (Bang 2); and *mind* (Bang 3). His summary observation in the book's final chapter is that "*humans find themselves uniquely emplaced on a unique planet...as no other species is. We alone can wonder where we are, who we are, what we ought to do.*" (p. 114)

Though his book is called *Three Big Bangs*, Rolston also writes of a fourth (*Spirit*) (p. 123). This fourth dimension "*seems to be secretly and impressively also at work.*" He then concludes, "*Maybe we are not so lonely after all; our presence is embraced by another Presence* (p. 124)."

Notice the upper-case letter 'P' in *Presence*. Rolston is signaling his faith in God to the scientific community he's been part of his entire life. He intimates in the last sentence of the book that we've been created by God. We are not here by chance. Randomness is a part of life, but this doesn't mean we're here by accident. We've been created *in the image of God*.

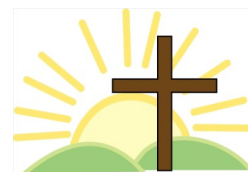
The *three big bangs* of science (matter-energy, life, and mind) are gifts from God to study in wonderment. There is, however, a fourth bang to be believed by faith: the bang of resurrection in Christ; the Easter news that God is stronger than death; that though we die, we will live. God is with us and waiting for us.

Join us for Easter worship on March 31. What joy is greater than being saved from death? Jesus is Lord; he's the 'omega point' of the evolutionary unfolding of life. Everything is headed toward him, which is why we gather in his name week by week. He has saved us from death. May God bless us with the fullness of Easter joy. We are not alone. The One who made us is with us forever.

Christ is risen!

Pastor Doug Heagy

One more thing... Join the church in Holy Week worship: Palm/Passion Sunday (March 24, 8:30 AM / 10:00 AM); Holy Thursday (March 28, 7:30 PM); Good Friday (March 29, 7:30 PM)



March, 2024

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Lenten thoughts about wealth

Jesus taught, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." -Luke 12:15 (NIV)

For centuries, Christians have observed the season of Lent by taking on new spiritual practices (such as special prayer or bible reading) or abstaining from things that are enjoyable or extravagant (such as tobacco, chocolate or alcohol).

Lenten disciplines assist us in looking inward, seeing ourselves for who we really are, and with God's help, identifying things that keep us from drawing closer to God. With God's help, we can then do something about what is keeping us from faith.

It's only fitting that Christians look at their relationship with wealth. Jesus had no problem with wealth, per se, but he repeatedly warns that wealth can distort our values and put a wedge between us and God. Or, worse, that money can supplant God as ruler in our hearts.

For those of us who are comfortable in our incomes and possessions, Lent invites us to look at our relationship with wealth. Here are some ideas for thought and prayer:

Jesus says, "Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." How is that different from the relentless message our consumer culture gives us? In what, then, would Jesus say our life consists? In what does your life consist?

- For Lent, keep a journal of everything you buy. At the end of Lent, analyze what your purchases say about your values, identity, and relationship with wealth.
- For Lent, buy only things you *need*, and NOT things you merely *want*. What do you learn in the process.
- For Lent, double your regular giving to charity. Or simply give to the point where it is a sacrifice.
- If you dare, try tithing – giving 10 percent of your income to God's work. What do you learn about yourself?

May this Lent be a time when you draw close to the Lord your God.

–Rob Blezard

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MARCH BIBLE STUDY

The Passion of Christ in the Gospels

A Review and Discussion of the Suffering of Jesus



THURSDAY MORNING

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

March 7 Matthew 26-27

March 14 Mark 14-15

March 21 Luke 22-23

March 28 John 18-19

Led by Pastor Heagy, these studies will focus on the suffering of Jesus. On March 7, 14, and 21, we will meet in the Conference Room. On March 28, participants will read John 18-19 in their own homes and later join the church for Holy Thursday worship at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary.

NOTE: Monday Evening Bible study will resume after Easter.

COLUMBARIUM - South Chancel Wall

Interment continues in the new columbarium and open to church members and extended families. The policy for the columbarium niches is available upon request from the church office.

The cost of each niche is \$1,000 for interment of a single individual and \$1,500 for the interment of two.

Please contact the church office to indicate your interest.



*The South Chancel Wall Columbarium
was completed July 2022*

SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE:

March, 2024

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

	8:30	10:00
March 3- Crucifer	Henry Keplar	Quin O'Brien
March 10- Crucifer	Max Bruno	Gabriel Provins
March 17- Crucifer	Addy Wetzel	Sam Wetzel
March 24- Palm Sunday Crucifer	Mackenna Cercone	Finn Darcy
March 31—Easter Crucifer	Chase Lutz	Luke Frankovitch



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

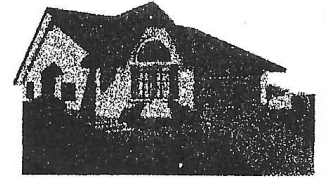
THE WORD of the LORD

- March 3 Third Sunday in Lent
 Exodus 20:1-17
 Psalm 19
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 John 2:13-22
- March 10 Fourth Sunday in Lent
 Numbers 21:4-9
 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Ephesians 2:1-10
 John 3:14-21
- March 17 Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm
 Hebrews 5:5-10
 John 12:2—33
- March 24 Sunday of the Passion
 Isaiah 50:4-9
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Mark 15:1-39
- March 31 Resurrection of Our Lord
 Acts 10:34-43
 Psalm 118:12, 14-24
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

Sunday School 10:00 AM



**Nurturing
 Faith
 in the Home**



It is in home that we ought truly to be able to be ourselves, because it is in the home that we sense our rootedness. And, therefore, we ought to be able to admit our failures, celebrate our joys, acknowledge our despair, and experience illness and even death.

It is in the home that we have the daily experiences of life — not text book examples — for the growing recognition of God at work in our own life and in and through the lives of others.

And therefore, the home should be a place of intentional, planned study and reflection in which we can articulate and experience faith and daily life.

For children especially, home is their primary world. And it is from the interactions in this setting, that the primary life stance of the child develops. While researchers vary in the exact age, they all agree that the major developmental tasks and primary values are established in the preschool years.

Without a doubt, it is in the home that the basic sense of love and trust are developed.

7 Goals For Nurturing Faith In The Home

1. *Each person will be encouraged to know her/himself as a child of God who is forgiven and saved by the death of Jesus Christ and daily strengthened by the Holy Spirit.*
2. *We will regularly study the Scriptures and seek to apply this good news to our daily life.*
3. *We will learn to recognize and experience the love of God in members of our household. We will honor, love, and respect each member of our home.*
4. *We will grow in faith and relationship to one another as we learn to trust, resolve conflicts, forgive, work, and play together.*
5. *We will be a home of prayer and praise.*
6. *We will experience and care for our neighborhood and world. We will be advocates and workers for ethnic appreciation and solidarity, peace, justice, and the environment.*
7. *We will be willing, able and eager to share the good news of Jesus Christ.*

Our faith journey is never-ending, but we do go it alone. We are called and set in families of God.



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:

Lord of all Life, we are grateful for the wholeness of life and for the gift of good health. Aware of the unity of body and spirit, we affirm our constant need for their harmony. We are grateful for your gift of the marvels of medicine and for all those who possess a healing touch and practice the arts of healing. As we thank you for your son Jesus, who moved among us as both teacher and healer, we pray for the restoration to health for:

Craig Elias; Andy Kelemen; Linda Larkin;
Jennifer Meyer,

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the April issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by **Sunday, March 18th**. Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.



GLOBAL LINKS
Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

Wednesday, March 6
1:00-3:00 pm

The first Global Links volunteer session of 2024 will take place Wednesday, March 6 from 1:00-3:00 pm at 700 Trumbell Drive, Greentree 15205. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex or feel free to call the church office or Sara Dougherty (412-523-1499) for more information. Please join us as we pack medical supplies for countries in need across the globe.



Spring Forward!
Daylight savings time begins
March 10th

Daily Bread Ministries Meal

March 17th

This month's menu will be: Shepherds Pie, Irish Soda Bread, Salad & Dessert, Please look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex for volunteers to help serve the meal.



Donations are now being accepted in the donation box in the Narthex. Or you can mail checks to Church office and mark memo line with the words, *'Daily Bread Ministries'* Thank you for remembering this much needed ministry.

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 and laundry products and monetary donations. Also needed are size 5 disposable diapers/pull ups. Items may be brought any Sunday and are taken to St. Michael's monthly. 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.

FLOWER CHART
AND WORSHIP BULLETINS
STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE 2024
YEAR.

Please see the signup sheets in the Narthex. Or call the church office for available dates.



Images of Lent

The ashes of Ash Wednesday remind us that we are repenting in order to follow Jesus. So, what does God want from us? The answer comes in our Lenten Bible readings.

God wants more than our presence in worship. Lent is an invitation to a fast, but the kind God wants is not merely an abstention from gluttony. Our fasting is to be a dedicated striving aimed at achieving justice for all God's children.

The prophet Isaiah told people they missed the point of repentance by their dramatic focus on personal suffering. Our focus should be on what's truly important: those who are poor, oppressed, hungry, and homeless. Sacrificing for others is a counter-cultural indictment of things the way they are.

The ashes of Lent remind us of our call to be servants, and lead us also to acknowledge that, no matter how hard we try, we cannot save ourselves.

In truth, the discipline of keeping Lent is intended to clear away what is extra so that we might focus on what is essential: our relationship with God. Lent invites us to fast because we do not live by bread alone. Lent calls us to give offerings in response to what God gives us in Christ. Lent reminds us to pray, not to get something from God, but because God is God and worthy of our prayers of thanksgiving.

Those who bear the cross know this truth. It is the truth we must not forget even though so much of the world is swept up in glib psychology. Isaiah knew the temptation to ignore the truth, and it is hard to resist that temptation, and difficult to do God's will, and painful to work for justice. But the faithful will follow God, empowered by their baptism, and marked with the cross of Christ.



**LENTEN MIDWEEK
VIRTUAL DEVOTIONS**
Wednesday's during Lent
7:30 pm

How to prepare for fasting...

Genuine, Spirit-filled fasting calls for intentional preparation. Such fasting calls for the following as a minimum:

- Examine your motives (Isa. 58:3-7)
- Surrender your life fully to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior (Rom. 12:1,2)
- Ask God to reveal your sins to you (Ps. 19:12)
- Confess your sins (1 John 1:9)
- Seek forgiveness from those you have offended (Mark 11:25; Luke 17:3,4)
- Make restitution as the Holy Spirit leads (Matt. 5:23-26)
- Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18)
- consult with your physician before beginning a fast of any length.

What to do while fasting...

- Pray (Dan. 9:3; Acts 14:23);
- Meditate on the Word of God (Ps. 1:1,2; Col. 3:16).
- Meditate on the attributes of God: love, grace, wisdom, compassion, sovereignty (Pss. 48:9, 10; 103:1-13).
- Expect God to bless you and reveal Himself to you (Heb. 11:6).
- Do not underestimate spiritual opposition (Gal. 5:16, 17)
- Refuse to yield to your worldly nature (Rom. 12:1,2).
- Exhibit an attitude of joy (Zech. 8:19; Matt, 6:17,18).

Calling all campers!!

Get ready for Vacation Bible School - Camp Firelight



When? July 15-19, 2024 - from 9am-12noon
Where? Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

Mark your calendars!

We have already started planning but we need your help! Putting VBS together is hard work! We have positions for teens & adults as assistants and leaders. Help is needed in Crafts, Bible Storytelling, Music, Science, Games, Snacks, and Decorating. Some tasks are before VBS, during evenings, weekends, etc. Others are during VBS hours: 9am-noon, July 15-19.

Are you interested in helping at **VBS Camp Firelight?**

Email Melodie Frankovitch at frankovitch@comcast.net

Cokesbury VBS Workshop (Virtual) March 16

VBS Training Workshop (Virtual)
Saturday, March 16 – 11:00 AM

This workshop provides an in-depth look at Cokesbury VBS and samples all 5 sessions as well as crafts, science, Bible stories, and more. It's a chance to network with other Churches using the same program, as well as learn ideas for VBS decorating, crafts, snacks, etc. If you would like to participate in the March 16th morning workshop, please register at <https://www.cokesburyvbs.com/workshops>

2024 TACKLE HUNGER Souper Bowl of Caring



Thank you for your donations to our Souper Bowl of Caring event in February. Many thanks to Leo and Milo Bucher, Annabelle and Grant Kegel, and Madelyn Nichols who helped with collections after worship services on Feb. 11. \$311.31 and 96 cans of soup will be given to St. Michael's Food Pantry to help alleviate hunger in their local community. The next delivery to their food pantry is scheduled for Monday, March 11. Please bring in your food donations by Sunday, March 10 to help stock their pantry shelves. Thanks for your generosity!

Give us today our daily bread.
Matthew 6:11



Lenten Devotions for All Ages

We have Lenten Devotional booklets for all age groups:

Adults: *"Lifted up in Love: Devotions for Lent and Easter"* Excerpts from Henri J.M. Nouwen. Inspiring insights are paired with original reflections and prayers in these daily devotions which help us experience more fully the everlasting compassion of God. These will be available in the Narthex.

Large Print: *"A Season of Hope: Lenten Devotions for Seniors."* These reflections help us ponder Christ's journey to the cross for our salvation, and they encourage us to share with younger generations the hope we have through Jesus. These will be sent to our home-bound parishioners and will also be available in the Narthex for those who would like large print devotions.

Pocket Size: *"In Jesus Name: Prayer with the Names of Jesus."* By Pat Gohn & Mark Zimmermann. This pocket-size booklet of prayers focus on many different names for Jesus. It's the perfect size for those on the go and will be available in the Narthex.

Children: *"Cross my Heart: Children's Devotions for Lent and Easter"* by David Mead. These devotions highlight God's great love that's been shown to us through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. It is a love we are called to share through our words and actions in Lent and throughout our lives. They will be distributed during Sunday School.

Teens/College: *"Sow Now It's Lent: Devotions for*

Youth Group

We're stepping into Jesus' shoes (sandals) for our March Youth Group meeting to explore the time of sacrifice that happens during Lent. We will be experiencing a few of the aspects of the Seder meal during our youth group meeting and participating in an experiential prayer in our Reflection Garden corner. We encourage all middle school and high school youth and their friends to come and join us. We will be meeting in the youth room at 4 pm Sunday, March 10th. Let Julia Nelson know you will be coming at jmnelson26@comcast.net



REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CAMP AND FAMILY CAMP IS UNDERWAY

The schedule, details, prices, and online registration link can be found at www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp.

Please spread the word and share this with the potential campers and/or summer staff in your life.

Remember Lutherlyn's promise that no child is turned away from summer camp for financial reasons. For a campership request form, please e-mail registrar@lutherlyn.com.

Also, we are in the process of hiring summer staff. Details can be found at www.lutherlyn.com/summeremployment.

If you have questions, please contact the camp office at 724-865-2161 or registrar@lutherlyn.com.

We hope to see you at Lutherlyn this summer!



Lenten Service Project 2024 **Continues until March 27**

As Social Ministry Chair, I am charged with creating social ministry projects that can positively impact those in need. *My biggest challenge is that there is so much need everywhere.* We as a congregation do a wonderful job ministering to those in our congregational family who are in need, we also provide support to Daily Bread Ministries in the Northside of Pittsburgh through cooking meals, making blankets, donating toiletry items and toilet paper, making healthy snack bags, we volunteer our time at Global links packing medical supplies to countries in need, we provide Thanksgiving baskets to those in need at St. Michaels and provide beautiful Angel Tree gifts to Glade Run.

As I was planning our annual Lenten Service Project, I opened my mail I received from LIRS-Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services reaching out for those in need. I was taken aback by the incredible need that just keeps getting bigger with so much unrest in our world but at the same time I felt such incredible pride at the very large role that our Lutheran Church as a whole plays to provide love, compassion and help to those in the greatest need.

Pittsburgh continues to welcome large numbers of refugees from a variety of countries. At this time, most refugees are arriving from The Congo, Syria and Afghanistan. We at Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church can follow in our Lutheran mission to help local refugees in our own community.

During Lent, we will once again be collecting items from the most-needed list at one of Pittsburgh's Refugee Resettlement agencies. They will then distribute these items directly to the families.

Thank you for supporting this important mission. Any questions, please contact the church office or Sara Dougherty (412-523-1499)

**Refugees are adults and children who have been forced to flee the only home they have ever known in search of safety.
Jesus was a Refugee.**

Hello Neighbor's Accepted In-Kind Donations List

Hello Neighbor looking for household goods to furnish the homes of our newly arriving refugee families. Before bringing a donation or sending an inquiry, please review this document in full.

If an item is not on the list, we likely cannot accept it.

For furniture donations, please send photos and a full description of items to the [in-kind coordinator](#).

Accepted Donations - last updated 9/28/23:

Bedding - MUST BE NEW

- Pillows
- Sheet sets - full and twin
- Comforters (full, twin, or queen)

Misc. household goods - new or gently used

- Plush throw blankets
- Curtains (64" or 84", in sets of 2)
- Shower curtain (with rod or rings)
- Tension rods (for curtains)
- Bath mats
- Bath towels

- Laundry baskets
- Light bulbs
- Rugs, especially area rugs
- Trash cans (Large and small)
- Umbrellas
- Toilet paper
- Small trash bin

Kitchen items - new or gently used

- Large frying pans
- Large soup pots
- Saucepans
- Tea kettles (electric and stove top)
- Stovetop pressure cookers (like [this](#))
- Colanders/strainers
- Rice cookers
- Tupperware
- Aluminum foil
- Brita water filter pitchers
- Dish sets (only sets of 4+; no random or single dishes please)
- Tea sets
- Tea kettles
- Oven mits
- Can openers
- Cutting board
- Kitchen utensil sets

Cleaning supplies

- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Shower curtains + rings
- Plunger
- Toilet brush
- Hand soap
- Mop
- Broom

Personal care items - new

- Men's and women's shaving supplies
- Feminine hygiene PADS (not tampons)
- Hairbrushes and combs
- Shaving cream
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Toilet paper
-

Bonus items (not required for housing setups but useful to have!)

- Soccer balls w/ pumps
- Sewing machines
- Needles and thread
- Tools/toolkits
- Stuffed animals (new only)
- TVs
- Roku devices/firesticks (for streaming)
- Space heaters
- Fans
- Phone case and screen protector for Google Pixel phones

Emergency gift cards (distributed when families experience a medical, housing, or other emergency and need additional support). Amounts of \$25, \$50, or \$100 are ideal.

- Target (for Ship't deliveries)
- Giant Eagle
- Walmart
- Aldi



A CALL TO A VIGIL OF PRAYER AROUND-THE-CLOCK DAILY THROUGHOUT HOLY WEEK



*Because prayer is grounded in God; because prayer is answered;
because prayer has no substitute; because prayer is power;
and
Paul asked for prayer without ceasing,
and
Peter asked for a watch of prayer,
and never forgetting that
Jesus commanded
“Watch therefore, and pray always”*

The 156 hours from the close of worship of Passion [Palm] Sunday until the faithful gather for Easter is one of the most important weeks in our congregation's life.

Pastor Doug is participating and invites you to join with your congregational family members in the Holy Week Vigil of Prayer. Around-the-clock, prayers of confession, adoration, thanksgiving, intercession and petition will be brought before our Heavenly Father's throne of grace.

Each prayer participant will select one or more hours in the Holy Week schedule during which they will maintain the Vigil. A sign-up poster board is located in the Narthex for those attending sanctuary worship. Those who worship virtually and all others who wish to join in the vigil must call the church office to reserve vigil times (412-563-0300).

A guidebook listing congregational members, missionaries, church leaders, governmental officials, the afflicted and homebound, as well as many others in need of prayer, will be provided to all participants. In the guidebook you will find suggestions for opening and closing your hour of prayer. Common prayers in the booklet, hymnal, and other prayerbooks may assist you. *You may find the hour to pass very quickly! God will bless your service.*

All participants will pray at home or in the sanctuary during office hours. Participation of homebound and out-of-town members is encouraged.

God has appointed prayer for conferring blessings we all need, whether spiritual or temporal, and has ordained prayer as a joyous occasion of divine-human fellowship.

Please join fellow members in these great hours of prayer. Scripture exhorts us to “pray without ceasing.” The Holy Week vigil is a way we participate in the unceasing prayers of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.



Easter Flowers and Tributes

Easter Flowers are symbols of the Resurrection and the new life we have in Christ, and they are used to adorn our Sanctuary for Easter Day celebrations.

In lieu of, or in addition to flowers, Easter Memorial or Tribute gifts may be made. Gifts of flowers and tributes will be acknowledged in a worship folder insert. **The deadline for contributing flowers, memorials and tributes is Sunday March 17.**

Please indicate the flowering plants and quantity you wish to contribute.

- _____ Easter Lily [6 1/2" pot] at \$11.00
- _____ Hyacinth [6 1/2" pot] at \$9.50
(white,pink,blue-3 plants per pot)
- _____ Tulip [6 1/2" pot] at \$9.50
(assorted colors)
- _____ Mums [6 1/2" pot] at \$9.00
(white, yellow, purple)
- _____ Hydrangeas [6 1/2" pot] at \$19.00
(pink, blue)
- _____ Azaleas [6 1/2" pot] at \$19.00
(white, pink, red-pink)
- _____ 10 " pot Large Lilies \$32.50



In addition to, or in lieu of flowers, I/We wish to present an Easter Memorial and Tribute Gift designated to:

Suggested Funds: Fine Arts, Memorial, Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Endowment, Stir Into Flame, ELCA Global Missions, ELCA World Hunger, Lutherlyn, SHIM, Daily Bread Ministries, St. Michael's Food Bank; Afghan Refugees Resettlement Fund; Roof Fund.

Donor: _____

Fund Name: _____ Amount _____

Please print the bulletin acknowledgement you desire:



**REMINDER TO CHURCH MEMBERS WITH
THRIVENT ACCOUNTS:**

The March 31 deadline is approaching to direct your
“Choice Dollars” to our Church. Thank you.

Thrivent Choice®

Strengthening communities. Changing lives.

By directing Choice Dollars® through the Thrivent Choice program, eligible Thrivent clients with membership can influence where Thrivent distributes some of its outreach funding each year.

Making a measurable difference

Since its inception in 2010, Thrivent has provided more than \$458 million in charitable outreach funds through Thrivent Choice, to help support the initiatives of churches, educational institutions and other nonprofit organizations, including:

Mount Lebanon United Lutheran Church

Please consider directing Choice Dollars to us. We will use Thrivent Choice funding to:

- Support the General Fund*
- Support the Stir into Flame Fund*
- Support our Christian Education & Youth Ministries*
- Support our Social Ministries Daily Bread Outreach*

Help make a difference

For more information about the Thrivent Choice program and Choice Dollars:

- Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
- Call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” when prompted.
- Contact your Thrivent financial professional.

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients with membership and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent’s mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program’s Terms and Conditions available at thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

Thrivent is the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Insurance products issued by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Not available in all states. Securities and investment advisory services offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., a registered investment adviser, member FINRA and SIPC, and a subsidiary of Thrivent. Licensed agent/producer of Thrivent. Registered representative of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. Advisory services available through investment adviser representatives only. thrivent.com/disclosures.



About Thrivent

Thrivent is membership-owned fraternal organization, as well as a holistic financial services organization, providing financial advice, investments, insurance, banking and generosity programs to help people make the most of all they’ve been given.

Thrivent Choice is one of many membership programs available to help clients make a meaningful impact in their communities. To learn more, visit thrivent.com today.

CHRIST IS RISEN



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.



MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Third Sunday in Lent 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School	4 12:30-2:30 ESL 7:00 ESL	5 4:30 Catechetics 1	6 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:30 Virtual Lenten Midweek Devo-	7 10:00 Bible Study 4:30 Catechetics 2	8	9
10 Fourth Sunday in Lent 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 2:00 Daily Bread Meal 4:00 Youth Group Meeting	11 12:30-2:30 ESL 7:00 ESL	12 4:30 Catechetics 1	13 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:30 Virtual Lenten Midweek Devotions	14 10:00 Bible Study 4:30 Catechetics 2	15	16 11:00 am VBS Virtual Training Workshop
17 Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:30 & 10:00 Live Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School	18 12:30-2:30 ESL 7:00 ESL	19 4:30 Catechetics 1	20 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:30 Virtual Lenten Midweek Devotions	21 10:00 Bible Study 4:30 Catechetics 2	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting	25 12:30-2:30 ESL 7:00 ESL	26 4:30 Catechetics 1	27 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:30 Virtual Lenten Midweek Devotions	28 Maundy Thursday 10:00 Bible Study 4:30 Catechetics 2 7:30 Worship 7:30 Live Virtual Worship	29 Good Friday 7:30 Worship 7:30 Live Virtual Worship	30
31 Easter Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship						



1 Women's History Month Give thanks for women throughout history and in our lives who have shared their gifts and leadership with the church and society, raised and cared for us, inspired us and nurtured our faith, and fought for justice, equity and inclusion. Pray for women everywhere who suffer injustice, demeaning stereotypes, violence and poverty, that they will not lose hope but will be delivered from their suffering and persecution to live freely and boldly.

2 Pray for our neighbors and siblings in Christ who have been driven from their homes and communities by conflict, persecution, disaster, political turmoil, economic crisis or the effects of climate change.

3 Bold Women's Day (Women of the ELCA) Celebrate and give thanks for Lutheran women who act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ through prayer, service to neighbors in need, advocacy, leadership, hospitality and telling their stories of faith.

4 Promise that we will never use our faith, our service to neighbors or our identity as followers of Christ to benefit ourselves, enhance our reputations or earn a profit. Ask the Spirit to nurture in us humility, generosity and gratitude for the gift of grace and salvation God has given us through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

5 Remember in prayer individuals, families and communities as they continue to recover from natural disasters, and ask God to give them strength, resilience and hope. Promise that we will persist in our commitment to support and assist these individuals, families and communities through a process that can be long, difficult and lonely.

6 There are those who consider our beliefs and faith to be foolish and misguided. Pray for the Spirit to deepen our understanding of God's wisdom and ways, strengthen our faith in Christ and guide our imperfect words and actions to convey God's merciful love for humankind, so that others will be moved to believe and to follow Jesus Christ.

7 Pray for the children and youth in your congregation, and for young adults involved in long-term volunteer service, careers, military service or study at colleges, universities, trade schools or seminaries.

8 "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). Praise God for being attentive to our thoughts, prayers and lamentations — spoken and unspoken.

9 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with The Episcopal Church, a full communion partner since 1999. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength, resources and encouragement for the work of sharing the gospel, serving our neighbor and growing the church.

10 Pray that we will clearly see God's relationship with humanity and the implications for our daily life when we reflect on the familiar proclamation Jesus made: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).

11 Ask God to bless the Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers working alongside our companion churches and organizations in six countries around the world and in the Cambodia program, which will reopen this year.

12 Give thanks for the food we receive and for those who grow, manage, harvest and prepare our food resources. Promise to respond to the needs of our neighbors and siblings in Christ who are hungry, and pray that the work we do together through ELCA World Hunger will have a deep and sustained impact.

13 At the heart of our faith is the belief that, though we are weak and imperfect, we are saved from ourselves and given new life through God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ. Lift up humble prayers of thanksgiving to God!

14 Pray for the ELCA Justice for Women program, which helps us work from our faith and Lutheran theology to educate, advocate for change and lead into the future, addressing sexism and encouraging all genders to work together.

15 Sing for joy and give thanks to God for providing comfort in times of distress, healing us when we are broken and reassuring us that we are valued when we feel insignificant.

16 Remember in prayer seminarians and international students preparing to serve as leaders in the church and society, including those supported through ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarships, the International Women Leaders program and the International Leaders Program.

17 Reflect on the people for whom you have concern. Pray for them and commit yourself to expressing your love and care in a personal way — an in-person conversation; a phone call offering help; a note, text or email.

18 Pray for the work of the Creation Care Network, which connects the ELCA with ecumenical ministries and organizations that equip us to be faithful stewards of God's creation.

19 First day of spring Praise our Creator and give thanks for the sun and the heavenly bodies of the universe, which impact every aspect of life and reflect the amazing creativity, mystery and power of God.

20 Let our Lenten prayer for today be: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (Psalm 51:1-2).

21 Remember in prayer youth, adults and congregations preparing for their faith-stirring experience at the ELCA Youth Gathering and related events in New Orleans this summer.

22 Rejoice and give thanks for the wonderful variety of songs and musical styles that calm, energize, unite and inspire us.

23 Pray for God to open our hearts and minds to the needs of our neighbors and to guide our responses of love, support and advocacy. Give thanks for the ways our church encourages and provides opportunities for service and volunteerism, including Young Adults in Global Mission, ELCA World Hunger, Young Adult Ministry, Lutheran Disaster Response and "God's work. Our hands." Sunday.

24 Palm Sunday With shouts of "Hosanna!" and the waving of palm branches, we plead for Jesus to save us and welcome him into our lives and the world as our true hope and salvation — the risen Messiah and Savior, who endured betrayal, suffering, public ridicule and death for the sake of all people.

25 Ask the Spirit to help us when we feel ill-prepared to talk about our faith, that we might tell the story of God's love and mercy revealed in Jesus and how our faith in Christ shapes our daily lives.

26 Lift up prayers of confession for the things we have done or failed to do that cause harm to others and grieve God. Plead for forgiveness and redemption, trusting that God is our ever-present hope and merciful Redeemer.

27 Give thanks for the great cloud of witnesses — our community of faith and our siblings in Christ — who help us persevere when we are tired and discouraged.

28 Maundy Thursday On this last day of Lent, pray that we will be mindful of the needs and struggles of our neighbors and siblings in Christ and that we will respond as followers of Jesus, reminded by our baptism to serve others with a respect and sincerity that reflect the abundant love and mercy God has shown us.

29 Good Friday Pray that, when we gather, worship and study as siblings in Christ, we will encourage one another to grow in faith, understanding and gratitude for God's sacrificial, life-giving love, witnessed in Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

30 Much of what we profess to believe may seem like a mystery to us and others. Ask the Spirit to help us live with the mystery and, at the same time, to grow in faith and awe of the triune God, who claims and gathers us close as loved children.

31 Easter Sunday Praise God that sin, fear and death have no control over us — Jesus Christ has risen for the redemption and healing of humanity! "Christ is living! Gone with sorrow! Tears and terror, be no more" (*All Creation Sings* 934).

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Presiding Bishop
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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 Great and Holy Week

Holy Thursday— Festive Sanctuary Worship & Live stream on Facebook March 28 at 7:30 pm

Holy Thursday marks the institution of the Lord's Supper and a call to heed Jesus' two commandments: "*Love one another as I have loved you;*" and "*Do this in remembrance of me.*" The Altar will be stripped to signify Jesus' betrayal, as he was stripped of glory and placed into the hands of his captors.

Good Friday-Festive Sanctuary Worship & Live stream on Facebook March 29 at 7:30 pm

Our Tenebrae Liturgy is an adaptation of the ancient office of light dimming used to impress upon the hearts and minds of believers the awful consequences of sin and magnitude of our Savior's sacrifice. The liturgy includes hymns [sung without accompaniment]; readings which trace the experience of our Lord from His trial before Pilate to his crucifixion, death and burial; and prayers. Worshipers sense the grueling ordeal of Jesus' passion.



Easter Sunday Sunday, March 31



Festive Sanctuary Worship 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM
Virtual Worship Live Stream on Facebook: 8:30 AM