

# the Voice parish newsletter

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

***Do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat, drink, or wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But strive first for the kingdom of God...***

Matthew 6:31-33

One of my first sins was stealing. I was four or five, standing in line with my mother at Fatur's Market in my hometown. Candy was in plain view at my eye level. Repeatedly my mother replied, "No," to my requests for a lollipop. 'Grab and go' was my next move. I sprinted from the store with a lolly in hand, jumped into the car and savored the flavor...for about 3 seconds.

My mother was fast behind me. She retrieved the lolly and marched me to the store manager's office. She paid for the candy and instructed me to apologize. Tearfully, I did; then she dropped the lollipop into a nearby trash can.

Boys become men. Russian President Vladimir Putin has lately lined his mighty army at the border of Ukraine. He's prepared to take what is not his own--the sovereignty, resources, and freedom of a neighboring nation. The world is watching. His mother was a factory worker; his father military. I know nothing more about them or the Putin family values.

Jesus addresses human anxiety in the above Bible passage. We worry about what we'll eat, drink, and wear. Some worry more than others. Leaders worry for their nations and become diabolical when they take by force what is not their own. Jesus says, "*it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things.*"

The value Jesus proposes is to *strive first for the kingdom of God*. Part of what this means is that God is first before nation, political party; money, gender, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation; and anything we elevate to inordinate heights. God is first before lollipops and the desire to have them. When I apologized, the store manager forgave me. So did my mother, but she didn't permit me to keep the lolly. There were consequences.

2022 has barely begun. The world is at the brink of war. Some things will never change, but Christ can change our lives. He taught his followers to *seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness*. May keeping God first inform everything we do today, tomorrow, and always. Life is a gift to share together.

In Christ with you,

Pastor Doug Heagy



February, 2022



# WHEN DOES CATECHISM BEGIN?

## *Reversing the Trend*

Congregations have different catechism requirements. Program length and rigor vary. There are differences in the grade level and ages of students. Nothing said below is directed specifically to current students and families in our catechism program. Rather, the concerns are based on decades of ministry and shared with the hope of reform.

Catechism begins the day a child is born. Parents learn this truth when they meet with pastors for baptismal instruction. They learn the duties of Christian parents include more than letters, numbers; diapers; and vaccinations. Teaching faith in Christ is the vow parents make on the occasion of their child's baptism.

### *Teaching faith includes...*

- ***Ongoing modeling and instruction in the home:*** Praying before meals; praying before bedtime; reading and teaching Bible stories (Do children see Bibles in plain view in the home and their parents reading God's word?)
- ***Remembering the Sabbath and keeping it holy:*** One of the greatest, noticeable changes of the last century has been the decline in weekly church attendance. Decline is evident in Europe, North America, but not in every part of the world. Children learn the habits of their parents. Parents who worship weekly are more likely to have children who do the same in life. There's no guarantee. Children may reject their parents' way. This truth, however, remains: parents pull the sled; they set the course of family life.
- ***Sunday School Attendance:*** "Perfect Sunday School Attendance" pins were once awarded at the end of each Sunday School year. Most churches no longer follow this practice. Few pins could be given. When youth reach the age of catechetical instruction, there's a great difference between those who've attended Sunday School and those who've not. Think of a 7th grade classroom with some having a knowledge of math and reading and others seeing numbers and letters for the first time. To teach in such a context means starting from scratch, altering curriculum that assumes previous years

cont...

of instruction. The matter is compounded when adults are unwilling to serve as Sunday School teachers. Teacher shortages hurt.

- ***Practicing ongoing confession and forgiveness:*** No pastor, parent, or child is perfect. We are sinners made holy by Christ. Teaching faith includes modeling the God of grace and forgiving love. When children see parents repenting and confessing sin (in the home and in worship), they mature by the experience of grace. They learn gratitude for God and are inspired to gratefully serve throughout life, using their time, talent, and treasure.

***So when does catechism begin?*** In truth, faith formation is a life-long process that begins at birth. When our three children were born, I read from the Bible in their birthing rooms, asking God to bless their lives. Regularly, I ask God to remember these prayers made on their birthdays. Let us pray for catechism; for the renewal of faith in Europe, North America, and the entire world. Renewal includes repentance, the humility to make course corrections to begin anew. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ. May love for Christ become again the first love of every home.

*With love for Christ and everyone,*

*Pastor Doug Heagy*



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

**Updated November 29, 2021**

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

## **Prior to Worship in our Sanctuary**

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

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

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

**Side Door** on the north driveway near the Handicap Parking spaces

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

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

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

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

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

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

*...continued*

## **During Worship**

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

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

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

## **At the Conclusion of Worship**

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

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

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

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

## **Virtual Worship (online and via telephone)**

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

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

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

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

# *Musical Musings— February, 2022*



*Larry Allen*

Dear Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Family and Friends,

In the Spring of 2005, I received a call from then Pastor Bruce Pedersen telling me that the position of Organist and Director of Music here was open and wondering if I might be interested in auditioning. At that point I had been musician at another church for a year, and was in conversations with them about expanding the position. Yet the job in Mt. Lebanon sounded intriguing and I agreed to come and play for the Pastor and discuss possibilities. That happened soon thereafter and then I heard nothing for about 6 weeks. I had pretty much dismissed the notion of a new position and then the phone call came! I began my work in August of 2005 and suddenly almost 17 years have passed!

I believe we have accomplished some wonderful things here, from expanding the size of the Chancel Choir and section leaders to purchasing a lovely piano for the sanctuary, to bringing some quality services enhanced by accompaniment from members of the Pittsburgh Symphony. These have been wonderful moments for me, and I hope for many of you, and this could not have happened without the backing of Pastor Heagy and the Worship and Music Committee, as well as those who contributed regularly to the Fine Arts fund to support these musical ventures. Believe me, every church musician does not have this undergirding and I have appreciated it more than I can say.

But time does march on and as I have recently turned 72, I realize that it is time for me to step aside and let a younger person come in with fresh approaches and new ideas. The Search Committee will soon begin its work and I feel confident that an excellent musician is “waiting in the wings” for just this position. As most of you know my life partner, Scott Bell, completes his third year as Professor of Oboe at the Juilliard School in Tianjin, China in May. He also will be retiring (after 27 years previously in the PSO) and I look forward to new adventures together.

And, though this letter needs to go out now, we still have many months together and I trust for more exciting musical happenings along the way. My job is the envy of many colleagues who have followed our progress, and the strong foundation here now will be the basis for even better musical days to come. I will watch with joy as I see that develop! Meanwhile, let’s continue our pilgrimage together on Sunday mornings, and I’ll look for you in church.

Blessings,  
Larry Allen





The worship links to Facebook & You Tube can be found on our website:  
[www.mtlebanonlutheran.org](http://www.mtlebanonlutheran.org)

## IN-PERSON, SANCTUARY WORSHIP

**Sunday's**  
**8:30 AM & 10:00 AM**  
*Virtual Worship 8:30 AM Facebook LIVE*  
*Posted later on our YouTube channel*

### THE WORD of the LORD

February 6 The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8  
 Psalm 38  
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
 Luke 5:1-11

February 13 The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10  
 Psalm 1  
 1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
 Luke 6:17-26

February 20 The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
 Luke 6:27-38

February 27 The Transfiguration of our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35  
 Psalm 99  
 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2  
 Luke 9:28-36

Sunday School 10:00 AM

*The Liturgy may be viewed on our Facebook page and YouTube Channel*

## SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: February, 2022

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

	8:30	10:00
February 6-Crucifer	Luke Dwulit	Hayden Sinar
February 13-Crucifer	Dylan Snyder	Sabrina Cox
February 20-Crucifer	Lexi Jones	Luke Frankovitch
February 27-Crucifer	Henry Keplar	Carter Lutz

### The Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday, February 27, 2022 [The Last Sunday after the Epiphany]



If you have ever struggled with a novel that takes you through countless plot twists and turns, and you have skipped ahead to read the final chapter in order to see more clearly where you are going, then you have a sense of how the Transfiguration works in the Gospel, and how Transfiguration Sunday works in the church's year of grace.

The Transfiguration of our Lord is not only the last of the manifestations [epiphanies] of Christ which we encounter on the Sundays after the Epiphany, it also offers a glimpse of the resurrected Christ in His glory. Peter and the disciples objected to His suffering and dying, to this turn in the plot of Jesus' life [as they perceived it], but now, at the Transfiguration, they see what is to become of Him.

In addition, this glimpse of the final chapter of Jesus' life will be our guide through the twists and turns of the wilderness of Lent, where we will end our journey, with the disciples, at the tree of life.

The Transfiguration is not only the story of Christ's life, it is also the story of our life as well, for "if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" [Saint Paul].

Transfiguration Sunday is also the day we return the Palm branches from last year so that they may be imposed on Ash Wednesday.



## **NEW COLUMBARIUM - South Chancel Wall**

As announced in the January 2022 Voice newsletter and approved by our council, we have signed a contract with *Armento Incorporated* of Buffalo, NY, to manufacture a new 48-niche columbarium, identical to the existing north chancel wall columbarium. The delivery date is sometime in late Spring followed by the installation on the 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.

**Please contact the church office to indicate your interest.**





# ONLINE GIVING

*Is now available in association with*



myEoffering

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

## WHAT IS myEoffering?

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

## WHY SHOULD I USE myEoffering?

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

## HOW DOES IT HELP?

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

## HOW DO I SIGN UP?

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



SCAN THIS  
CODE WITH  
YOUR MOBILE  
DEVICE NOW





## WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

**O God, fill us with your light, that we might delight in your goodness and glory and serve you with joy. Illumine with your light, we pray, those who struggle in sickness and in sorrow with the warmth of your healing presence which will remind them that they are not alone. Especially we pray for:**

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

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** for the March issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by **Sunday, February 13th**. Articles may be left in the church office or email: [mtleboluth@aol.com](mailto:mtleboluth@aol.com).



### Meal with the Poor....

The next Meal with the Poor will be on March 13. The menu will be determined at a later date. At this time, monetary donations are being welcomed. Please remember this much needed ministry on the North Side. Thank you.



### Worship by Telephone:

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

**FINAL 2021 Financial Giving Statements** have been mailed. If you have questions about your statement, please call Allan Copenheaver at 412 563-6865, or email [allancope@yahoo.com](mailto:allancope@yahoo.com). The church office does not assist with questions, which remain confidential with our financial secretary.

## 2022 Congregational Council Officers



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

Thank you to our council members for sharing their faithful leadership.

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

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

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL OUR CONGREGATION

If you have not already picked up your 2022 Church Offering Envelopes we ask that you please stop by the Church office either before or after Worships, or call the office to make arrangements for pick up Monday-Friday 9:00 am—1:00 pm. This will help defray the cost of having to mail the remaining boxes.

If you have decided to use our new **E-Offering Link**, please call the church office to let us know so we can set your box aside. Thank you for your stewardship.



# 2022: Your year for generosity

***"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity!"***

## **2 Corinthians 9:11**

As you make resolutions and set goals for the New Year, be sure to include this one: "I will be more generous in 2022." It will bless you – and your community and neighbor!

The Bible makes clear that generosity leads to a more abundant life. Generous people experience one of those paradoxes of the Kingdom of God, where the last are first, the greatest is servant to all, and whoever loses her life for Christ will gain it. The paradox? Generous people get back far more than they give.

First, a clarification: The paradox is NOT a financial strategy to maximize return on investment. That would be missing the point. Besides, there are more important things to give than money, such as time, service, kindness, forgiveness, compassion, love, and joy. And what we get back may not be quantifiable. How do you measure wellbeing and happiness?

Generosity's real "payback" is what and who we become when we cultivate a habit of giving. Giving transforms us into generous-hearted people, and generous-hearted people tend to experience a real abundance of joy, peace, love, and security. The old saying is most certainly true: The open palm holds more than the closed fist.

For 2022, set a goal to be more generous. Start by increasing your charitable giving above last year's offering, but also aim to give away your time, to serve your neighbor, to be lavish in compassion, extravagant in love.

Pray that God will guide you and help you experience the paradox: Givers get back more than they give away.

Rob Blezard  
Stewardship of Life Institute  
61 Seminary Road  
Gettysburg, PA  
17325  
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*Want to know more about becoming a faithful steward? Contact Pastor Heagy or the Stewardship Committee at the church: 412-563-0300 / [mtleboluth@aol.com](mailto:mtleboluth@aol.com)*

## Blanket Tying Event 2022



Once again due to COVID-19, we had to adjust the blanket tying event this year. Instead of tying the blankets together as a congregation with our Bhutanese neighbors, the youth and their families and the Bhutanese seniors created blankets on their own for our friends at Daily Bread Ministries. The youth created 19 beautiful blankets while the Bhutanese created 20! These blankets were delivered with our meal this past Sunday and they were greatly appreciated! Thanks to all who participated in this wonderful program. For those of you who still have blankets, please bring them to the church by February 1 and I will deliver a 2<sup>nd</sup> batch.

## Social Ministries 2022

As always there is great need throughout the world and right here in our own community. Recently Pittsburgh has been welcoming many Afghan refugees who are resettling in our beautiful city. As they arrive, the resettlement agencies will have many needs-some which our church can fulfill. We will also continue to minister to our neighbors on the Northside served by Daily Bread Ministries. We plan to conduct youth service projects every 6 weeks as well as congregational projects throughout the year. Many of the service projects will be supplemented by Thrivent grants to provide additional power to our giving. A few projects in the works are a “Toilet Paper Drive” (the #1 item needed by Daily Bread Ministries), A “drive” for our Afghan neighbors-(items to be determined later) and Easter Care Bags made by our youth to be passed out at the Easter meal at Daily Bread.

Keep your eye out—in the VOICE, Bulletin announcements and e-mail blasts about many wonderful projects that you can participate in.

Any questions, please contact Sara Dougherty at [tjdsjd@verizon.net](mailto:tjdsjd@verizon.net) or 412-523-1499.

## Current Needs for Afghan Refugees

- \*Men's Gloves
- \*Shaving Cream
- \*Lotion
- \*Shampoo & Conditioner
- \*Laundry Detergent
- \*Cleaning Supplies  
(Bathroom cleaner, all purpose cleaner in spray bottles)
- \*Dish liquid-small size (Dawn, etc)
- \*Small Kitchen Utensils  
(Wooden spoons, spatulas, Turners, etc)
- \*Family Plate Sets
- \*Glass Sets
- \*Mug Sets
- \*Queen Size Sheets
- \*Notebooks
- \*Pens/Mechanical Pencils





# Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 13

We are looking forward to the 2022 Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 13. Our Congregation will help transform Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving!

This year, with an abundance of caution, contact with others during collection will be minimized. Soup pots will be stationed in the Narthex before and after worship services for your monetary donations.

Sunday School families are being asked to participate by bringing in donations of canned soup. We also have soup pots in Sunday School

classrooms for the monetary donations.

This year's collection is for St. Michael's Food Pantry. Your help is greatly appreciated!



## VALENTINES PROJECT

### Craft Session January 30; Valentines Due February 6

Please help us create Valentine cards for those on our prayer list, homebound members, and friends at Daily Bread Ministries. Kits are available in the Foyer, or you are welcome to create with your own supplies. **Sunday School students will be making Valentines during Sunday School on January 30.** They can also take home additional kits which they will return by February 6.



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Questions? Please contact Deb Hazlett [drhazlett@verizon.net](mailto:drhazlett@verizon.net)

## Sunday School Teachers & Substitutes Needed

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

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

## New Educational Ministries Chairperson

The Educational Ministries Committee welcomes Vedette Keplar as our new Chairperson. She brings over 20 years of experience in Sunday School as well as infectious joy that comes from her love of kids and Jesus! Please pray for her and for all of our volunteers as we continue our mission to equip our students to be disciples of Christ!

*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.*



# BIBLE STUDIES FOR FEBRUARY



## MONDAY NIGHT

7:00 PM—8:00 PM

2 Corinthians

Feb. 7 - 2 Corinthians

Feb. 14 - 2 Corinthians

Feb 21 - 2 Corinthians

Feb. 29 - 2 Corinthians

## THURSDAY MORNING

10:00 AM—11:15 AM

Song of Solomon

James

Feb. 3—Song of Solomon

Feb 10. —Song of Solomon

Feb. 17 —Song of Solomon

Feb. 24 - Song of Solomon

March 3 —James

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

## 2022 COUNCIL MEETINGS

February 27, 2022

March 27, 2022

April 24, 2022

May 22, 2022

June 26, 2022

July 24, 2022

August 28, 2022

September 25, 2022

October 23, 2022

November 20, 2022

December 18, 2022

## Looking ahead...

**Ash Wednesday - March 2**

**Easter - April 17**

**Pentecost - June 5**



*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

1 John 4:7-8



**Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran**  
**Summary of the Treasurer's Report**  
**December, 2021**

General Fund	December, 2021	Year-to-Date	2020-to-Date
Weekly Envelopes	\$25,926.74	\$269,052.61	\$261,894.55
Plate Offerings	236.00	1,796.25	2,834.75
Special/Holy Day Offerings	5,115.00	9,830.00	7,840.00
Initial Offering	30.00	267.00	450.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,500.00	16,835.65	35,588.03
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>35,807.74</b>	<b>297,781.51</b>	<b>327,621.30</b>
<b>Stir Into Flame</b>	<b>2,161.70</b>	<b>22,584.97</b>	<b>15,881.00</b>
<b>Designated Benevolence</b>			
Lutherlyn Support [Sunday School]			
Disaster Relief		20.00	
St. Michael's Food Pantry	100.00	2,955.00	935.00 (\$360 Souper Bowl)
World Hunger		600.00	580.00
For the Needy			1,000.00
Thanksgiving Project		305.00	100.00
Glade Run			100.00
Meal with Poor	470.63	5,466.65	4,560.01
ELCA Disaster Relief	100.00	600.00	20.00

**Fund Balances December 31st, 2021**

General Fund	23,670.53	Benevolence	3,873.84
Stir Into Flame	218,841.08	943 Washington Road	146,513.24
Irene Schein Educational Endowment	274,018.25	Red Bird & future trips	1,749.63
Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Endowment	229,617.20	Fine Arts Fund	5,069.79
Memorial Fund	16,966.42	Pastoral Housing Fund	32,583.72
Flower Fund	1,248.61	Noah's Arch Repair	2,892.71
Columbarium Fund	2,800.46		
		<b>Total All Funds:</b>	<b>\$ 959,845.48</b>

**Tax Reform Act May Make QCD's More Appealing**

Several years ago, Qualified Charitable Distributions became an option for IRA holders, who are at least 70 ½, to donate directly to qualified charities. This has several possible good tax outcomes for the IRA holder. In cases where the taxpayer is taking the standard deduction, direct contribution will keep the IRA distribution out of taxable income, lowering taxes if you do not itemize. This also reduces Adjusted Gross Income that may reduce taxes on Social Security benefits and reduce the taxpayer's Medicare premiums.

While nothing changed in 2021 as far as these rules, the near doubling of the standard deduction makes it more likely that taxpayer's will be taking the standard deduction. Taking an IRA distribution that goes into taxable income may not be offset by an itemized deduction for charitable contributions, increasing taxes. In short, contributions to MLULC (or other charities) may be more tax effective if donated directly from an IRA to the charity rather than being distributed to the taxpayer and then contributed to the charity. "Qualified charitable distributions count towards your required minimum distribution, if you have one this year."

If this is of possible interest to you, please contact me. I can explain further and give you account information for our brokerage account that can accept QCD's.



## Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Endowment Fund Awards Grants

In late December, the Endowment Fund Committee met to distribute funds that have been earned through the investment returns of the fund. Gifts were awarded, in accordance with the founding document passed at the 2002 Annual Meeting. The fund has grown over the years through bequests, donations and investment returns. Please consider remembering the Endowment Fund in your estate.

Grant recipients for this year are:

*The Himalayan Foundation  
Family Links  
Community 341  
Persad Center*

Thank you to David Hale, Amy Stabenow, Cindy Brown, Don Snyder, Michelle Schocker, David Lendt, and Pastor Heagy for their service.

For the committee,  
Dave Lendt, Treasurer



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.



## Worshipping after Epiphany and prior to Lent 2022 at Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church



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



### When to Worship



#### Livestreams on Facebook:

- Sunday morning Liturgies – 8:30 am

#### Video Replay on Facebook & YouTube:

- Available soon after each Worship event

### How to Access the Liturgies & Devotions



#### Facebook:

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



#### YouTube

- Visit our YouTube Channel  
<https://youtube.com/channel/UCY-2Ewf9b1iABI8iaovaN3w>

Links are also at [www.mtlebanonlutheran.org](http://www.mtlebanonlutheran.org)



#### Telephone – Sunday Liturgies by phone:

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

### Preparing and Worshipping



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



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



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



#### Worship and Fellowship Together...Safely:

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



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



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



Please contact the **Church Office** at 412-563-0300  
or email [MtLeboLuth@aol.com](mailto:MtLeboLuth@aol.com) to schedule assistance.

### More ways to access Worship Materials:

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

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

### Being Together If Worshipping Remotely

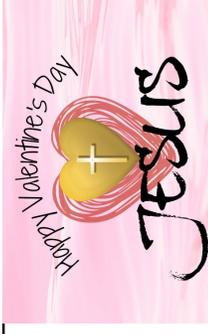
While worshipping remotely, many worshipers are using Facebook comments to help us feel a bit closer to each other. During our Facebook live stream feel free to use "comments" to...

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

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



# February 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 4:00 Catechetics 1- Social Hall	2	3 10:00 Bible Study- Song of Solomon	4	5
6 <b>Epiphany 5</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:30 Catechetics 2 <i>Valentines Due</i>	7 7:00 Bible Study- 2 Corinthians	8 4:00 Catechetics 1- Social Hall	9	10 10:00 Bible Study Song of Solomon	11	12
13 <b>Epiphany 6</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:30 Catechetics 2 <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i>	14  7:00 Bible Study- 2 Corinthians	15 4:00 Catechetics 1- Social Hall	16	17 10:00 Bible Study- Song of Solomon	18	19
20 <b>Epiphany 7</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Live Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:30 Catechetics 2	21 7:00 Bible Study- 2 Corinthians	22 4:00 Catechetics 1- Social Hall	23	24 10:00 Bible Study- James	25	26
27 <b>The Transfiguration Of Our Lord</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting	28 7:00 Bible Study- 2 Corinthians					

# Your Place. Your Passion.



Valparaiso University consistently receives national recognition  
as one of the best in the Midwest.

## 5 UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES:

ARTS & SCIENCES • BUSINESS • ENGINEERING • NURSING & HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
• CHRIST COLLEGE — THE HONORS COLLEGE

## EXPERIENCE LIFE AT VALPO

**70+**

MAJORS

**100+**

STUDENT  
ORGANIZATIONS

**21**

DIVISION I  
ATHLETICS PROGRAMS

**100+**

ARTS PERFORMANCES  
ANNUALLY

**50+**

STUDY ABROAD  
PROGRAMS

**VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY**

[valpo.edu](http://valpo.edu)

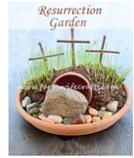
Valparaiso University is an independent **Lutheran** institution in Valparaiso, Indiana, an hour's drive southeast of Chicago. Founded in 1859, Valparaiso offers a thorough grounding in the liberal arts as well as professional training and graduate study. Contact Pastor Heagy for more information.



# PREPARING FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

THERE ARE MANY THINGS WE CAN DO AS WE PREPARE FOR THE LENTEN SEASON WHICH BEGINS MARCH 2 WITH ASH WEDNESDAY. HERE ARE A FEW NON-TRADITIONAL IDEAS:

1) CREATE A RESURRECTION GARDEN— [HTTPS://WWW.FARMWIFECRAFTS.COM/RESURRECTION-GARDEN/](https://www.farmwifecrafts.com/resurrection-garden/)



2) MAKE A LENTEN PRETZEL — *THE WORD PRETZEL IS DERIVED FROM A GERMAN WORD THAT MEANS “LITTLE ARMS.” THE TWISTED SHAPE OF PRETZELS IS MEANT TO RESEMBLE TWO ARMS CROSSED IN PRAYER. MAKING LENT PRETZELS IS A WAY TO REMEMBER THAT LENT IS A SEASON OF PRAYER.*



[HTTPS://WWW.FOODNETWORK.COM/RECIPES/ALTON-BROWN/HOMEMADE-SOFT-PRETZELS-RECIPE-1948242](https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/alton-brown/homemade-soft-pretzels-recipe-1948242)

3) CREATE A THORN WREATH— OUT OF CHOCOLATE COVERED PRETZEL STICKS



4) 40 DAYS OF DONATIONS-GO THROUGH CLOSET AND EVERY DAY FOR THE 40 DAYS OF LENT PUT ONE ITEM YOU NO LONGER WEAR IN A BASKET. DONATE BASKET TO SHELTER.

5) MAKE A RUSTIC CROSS FROM TWIGS, BRANCHES AND TWINE

ASH WEDNESDAY  
HOLY WEDNESDAY  
MAUNDAY THURSDAY  
GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 2  
APRIL 13  
APRIL 14  
APRIL 15

EASTER SUNDAY-RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD - APRIL 17



GOD LOVES YOU



FOR GOD...

SO LOVED THE  
WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS  
ONLY

BEGOTTEN

SON, SO

THAT EVERYONE

WHO BELIEVES IN HIM

MAY NOT PERISH

BUT MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

*John 3:16*



**1** *Black History Month* Give thanks for the gifts, accomplishments, influence and witness of our African-descent neighbors — we stand together as siblings in Christ and partners in the gospel, doing God's work in the world together. Pray that God will guide our church as it strives for racial justice, socioeconomic equity, racial reconciliation and an end to racism in our church, society and institutions.

**2** Give thanks for the small and subtle ways in which the Spirit encourages and deepens our faith each and every day.

**3** Pray for parish nurses who serve in ministries of health and healing and for the ELCA-affiliated Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association, which supports parish nurses and promotes a culture of health, healing and wholeness in Lutheran congregations, agencies and communities.

**4** Pray for those who lost homes and were displaced during the December wildfires in Boulder County, Colo. Give thanks for the partnership of Lutheran Disaster Response, the Rocky Mountain Synod and Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains as they work together to provide food, temporary shelter, emotional and spiritual care, and assistance with recovery work.

**5** Pray that our anxieties about the future will be quieted by the assurance that the Spirit's gifts of hope and peace are more powerful and enduring than the threats and uncertainties we face in life.

**6** Pray that, just as the fishermen Simon Peter, James and John dropped everything they were doing to follow Jesus, we, too, with all our gifts and flaws, might respond to God's call to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, serve our neighbors in need and do God's work in the world.

**7** Remember in prayer those impacted by severe weather, especially Typhoon Rai in the Philippines and the recent tornadoes, flooding and winter storms across our country. Pray that God's presence will bring healing and hope during recovery, comfort those grieving the loss of loved ones, and strengthen the people and organizations that respond to crises and help with recovery, including Lutheran Disaster Response.

**8** Remember and give thanks for siblings in Christ of every generation who have shared the gospel, inspired others to believe, and borne God's grace, peace and hope into the world through their words, example, service and sacrifice.

**9** We live in a time of war, conflict and unrest in many regions of the world. Pray for the safety of people living amid turmoil, the well-being of refugees and immigrants fleeing threats, and the protection of children and youth living in circumstances unimaginable to us. Ask the Spirit to guide us as courageous and compassionate advocates, peacemakers, companions and bearers of hope in the world.

**10** Pray for the leaders of youth and family ministries and for outdoor ministry professionals as they participate in the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza in Minneapolis, an event that provides them with encouragement, support, education and networking opportunities.

**11** "I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart" (Psalm 138:1). Pray that every aspect of our life, service and generosity will reflect our gratitude for God's awesome, undeserved love and blessings.

**12** Give thanks and praise to God for the companion-synod relationships that connect our synods and congregations with Lutheran churches around the world, blessing, nurturing and strengthening them for their ministry together.

**13** Give thanks that God teaches us something new every day and equips us so well to share the good news of Jesus Christ, care for neighbors in need and reflect God's gracious love through our words, actions and interactions with people.

**14** Pray for immigrants and refugees, in our country and around the world, who seek safety, relief and a place to rebuild their lives. Ask that God's compassion, wisdom and desire for justice guide us in resolving the problems and crises that displace people from their homes and nations.

**15** "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green" (Jeremiah 17:7-8). Praise God for the work of the Spirit, which renews and nourishes us when we feel uncertain, weary or anxious.

**16** Thank God for our special relationship with the Moravian Church in America, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these challenging times.

**17** Pray that the Spirit will help us understand and follow the ways, desires and commandments of God that protect our well-being in daily life.

**18** Give thanks that our faith and hope are grounded in Christ's resurrection and the promise of one day being raised to eternal life as God's children. Pray that the Spirit will help us articulate — in our own imperfect words — our joy, our faith and the good news of Jesus Christ for all people.

**19** Pray that our seminaries and Lay Schools for Ministry program will grow, thrive and prepare our church leaders for ministry in diverse and changing contexts, in the present and with insightful anticipation of the future.

**20** "Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as [God] is merciful" (Luke 6:35-36). Ask the Spirit to help us do what seems difficult or impossible and live as willing disciples of Christ.

**21** Reflect on what God is stirring in us right now, and pray that we might discern what God calls us to be: bearers of love, hope, healing, reconciliation and the good news of Jesus Christ.

**22** Pray that the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers, which mirrors God's love and forgiveness of us, will inspire us to forgive those who have caused us offense, anger or distress, and that we might seek forgiveness and grace from people we have hurt.

**23** The theme of the ELCA Youth Gathering and our camps' summer curriculum is "boundless: God beyond measure." Pray that we will live into this theme, growing in faith and gratitude for God's infinite power, presence, love and wisdom.

**24** Thank God for hearing and responding to our prayers — spoken and silent — and for tending to our needs, easing our worries, calming our anger and providing refuge in time of trouble. Ask the Spirit to guide and inspire us as we do God's work in the world, caring for our neighbors in distress.

**25** Pray for the Deaconess Community of the ELCA, a diverse body unified in its commitment to proclaim the gospel, show mercy, demonstrate servant leadership and bring healing and reconciliation to the world.

**26** Look into the vast night sky at the stars, planets, meteors and comets, and praise God for stirring our awe, wonder, curiosity, humility and imagination.

**27** "And all were astounded at the greatness of God" (Luke 9:43). Give thanks that in Jesus Christ we glimpse and experience the glory and power of God poured out upon humanity for our healing and salvation.

**28** Give thanks for the evolving technology that helps us with everyday tasks, connects us with people around the world, provides new tools for treating the sick and injured, and helps us reach more people with the gospel. Pray that we will consider the impact of technology and use it equitably and justly for the well-being and benefit of all people.



## Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

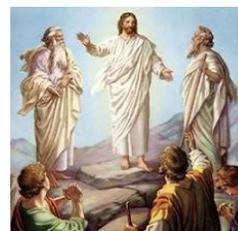
975 Washington Road  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15228  
Church Telephone: [412] 563-0300  
email: mtleboluth@aol.com  
www.mtlebanonlutheran.org



**The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton**  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
**The Reverend Kurt Kusserow**  
Bishop  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod  
**The Reverend Douglas M. Heagy**  
Senior Pastor  
**Larry Allen**  
Director of Music and Organist  
**Mrs. Kris Malia**  
Parish Secretary  
**Mr. Michael Eck**  
Sexton

# The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sunday, February 27, 2022  
[The Last Sunday after the Epiphany]



A solemn day of the Church Year

## Ash Wednesday

Liturgy times: 11:00 AM & 7:30 PM  
March 2, 2022



Sealing of the alleluia, confession, imposition of ashes  
and a restrained celebration of the Lord's Supper  
to begin our Lenten journey of turning away from sin  
to be faithful to the Gospel in Jesus Christ.

*God said to Adam, remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return.*