

# the Voice parish newsletter



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

*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. –Luke 4:1-2*

How the pandemic changed life will eventually be forgotten; for now, we still remember "15 days to flatten the curve." We remained then at home, stocked up on supplies, feared touching boxes delivered to us, retrieving them with gloves. Items were hard to find, but family life in some ways improved. We were safely together in one place with nowhere to go. The pace of life slowed to a near halt.

Our church council has voted to drop the mask mandate inside our building. We are now free to worship without face masks. We will continue to monitor the CDC guidelines, but for now a bit of normalcy dawns. Whether people return to worship remains to be seen. A recent article had the headline, "*They May Not Come Back.*"

Lent begins this month, starting on Ash Wednesday, and it will be as it's always been—a season of returning to God. Lent is 40 days when we engage in penitence, self-examination, prayer, and fasting. We look inward. We ask questions: *Has God been first in my life? Has serving others been the focus of my life? Have I been faithful to prayer and keeping Sabbath compared to doing other things? Is there a purpose to my life beyond vain efforts to create generational wealth? To whom do I pledge my allegiance?*

We are emerging from a difficult, viral period of world history but now may be entering very bellicose years. Some have lost faith. *They May Not Come Back* is an ominous headline, but our mission has always been a challenge. It's hard to sell the cross. People are disinclined to line up for a regiment of self-sacrifice, putting others first, giving away time and treasure. Only the Holy Spirit can convert selfish hearts. Following Christ is a joyous, challenging life.

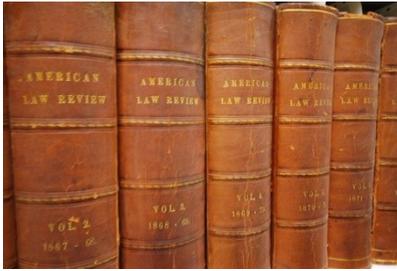
Now that we are worshiping without face masks and can fully see each other again, I invite all members and friends to return. Make a gift to the church during the 40 days of Lent this year—the gift of living fully and gratefully for God. Let us follow Jesus in these 40 days, meditating on how he was tempted yet remained without sin. By God's grace, let us overcome the temptation not to worship. Blessings to all who will join Jesus, keeping holy Lent's forty days.

In Christ,  
Pastor Doug Heagy



March, 2022

# The Law's Tithing versus the Gospel's Free Generosity



Next time you're at a church social function, go up to people who seem to be having fun and start talking about *tithing*. Most will run for cover faster than vampires at dawn. But the ones who remain may have an interesting story to share.

That's because a wide majority believes that *giving a tenth of their gross income* is utterly impossible and totally unrealistic. For instance, if a family makes \$52,000, that would be a donation of \$100 a week. If they're typical "2 percenters," they put a \$20 bill in the weekly offering envelope and be satisfied. It's truly a real stretch to ask them to put in the other \$80 for a tithe.

Some churchgoers criticize tithing as too rigid and legalistic — more the province of Pharisees and scribes than of Christians, who, after all, have been freed by Jesus from the law. Yes, it's true, we are free from the law, but as Martin Luther points out, the law does serve God's purpose in the lives of faithful people.

First, the law helps keep order in our world by shaping our outward behavior. If people are giving financially to the work of God because they feel compelled to do so, they are still contributing financially to the work of God.

But the second use of the law is more to the point. The daunting requirements of the law can lead us to despair and guilt and awareness of our selfish, sinful nature. That in turn causes us to turn to the Gospel for its message of freedom and joy. And in response to God's love, we gladly give more, and more and more.

That's the story you may hear from the people still talking to you at the church function. Most people who have taken the plunge of tithing have found it surprisingly rewarding. The satisfaction they get from giving money away leads many to offer above the 10 percent level.

It's counter-intuitive to think that giving away more money will actually make you feel richer, happier and more fulfilled, but that's a very common experience of tithers. By walking on the path of the law of tithing, they have actually found themselves in a place where they can enjoy the Gospel's freedom for generosity. They have learned the truth of Jesus' observation of Matthew 6:21: "Where your treasure is, there your heart shall be also."

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## Musical Musings—March 2022

Lent begins this month and it is about as late as it can be on the Christian calendar. It is a time for personal reflection and we often hear of people “giving up something for Lent.” I wonder if we might adapt that phrase to “take something on for Lent.” It need not be a big effort but there are things all of us might do to enrich our Lenten experience. Consider, from a musical perspective:

making a point of being in worship each Sunday during Lent  
looking at our hymns with a new set of eyes – they are usually chosen to reflect the meaning of the Scriptures.  
Maybe you are not a singer (though everyone can make a joyful noise!), but you might read the texts as they are sung so that you are participating in that part of the worship experience.  
setting aside the dates of special services for Holy Week so that you haven’t scheduled something else which cannot be changed when you realize it’s Holy Week!  
and, consider inviting someone to some liturgy which promises something meaningful. Churches grow and thrive not only by the work of the Pastor and staff, but when members are willing to say “we have something we are proud of and I think you might enjoy it too.”

One particularly special Sunday will be March 13 when *Marino Galluzzo* returns from Arizona and joins us with his saxophone in worship for both liturgies. At the 10:00 service he will also accompany the choir on a fine arrangement of – hold on - “Jesus Loves Me.” We will be so glad to welcome him back with us and to hear him again.

Looking ahead to April – please put Holy Thursday, March 14 at 7:30 on your calendar. We will have the traditional communion service and stripping of the altar, and in addition the choir, with guest oboist Amelia van Horn, will offer a cantata entitled “Light in the Darkness.” It is a Tenebrae service which captures the poignancy and drama of Holy Week. Narrators from our congregation will also play an important part. Come and be a part of a meaningful experience – a good time to invite that friend!

Blessings,  
Larry Allen



### SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: March, 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 [mteboluth@aol.com](mailto:mteboluth@aol.com)

	8:30	10:00
March 6-Crucifer	Milo Bucher	Owen O'Brien
March 13-Crucifer	Emma Gelston	Nico Provins
March 20-Crucifer	Annaleigh Dwulit	Jack O'Brien
March 27-Crucifer	Luke Dwulit	Gabriel Provins





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

March 2	Ash Wednesday
	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
March 6	First Sunday in Lent
	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13
March 12	Second Sunday in Lent
	Genesis 15:1-12; 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17—4:1 Luke 13:31-35
March 20	Third Sunday in Lent
	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9
March 27	Fourth Sunday in Lent
	Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sunday School 10:00 AM

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

### Images of Lent



We mark the start of Lent on March 2. The ashes of Ash Wednesday remind us that we, as a people baptized into the death of Christ, are repenting in order to follow Jesus. So, what does God want from us?

An answer comes early in our Lenten readings. God wants a great deal more from us than just our presence in worship, and the prophet Isaiah calls us to account when we have failed to do it. Lent is an invitation to a fast, but the kind of fast God wants us to observe is not merely an abstention from gluttony, but a deliberate, dedicated striving aimed at achieving justice for all of God's children. It was the challenge Isaiah offered to his listeners, and it is the challenge that remains for us today.

Isaiah told the people then [and those now who wear the ashes] that they missed the point of the ashes by concentrating on their dramatic portrayal of repentant suffering. The focus should be on what is really important: those who are poor, oppressed, hungry, and homeless. Sacrificing for others was and is a profoundly counter-cultural indictment of things the way they were, and of the way people allow themselves to become.

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 real discipline of 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 and praise.

Those who bear the cross of ashes know this truth. It is the truth we must not forget even though so much of the world and even so many members of our families, get swept along by a glib psychology of life.

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.



## **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



# LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES

## THE LESSONS OF LENT

Participants will discuss the seasonal Bible readings appointed by the church. Monday nights will include passages from the Old Testament and New Testament epistles. Thursday mornings will focus on Gospel texts. All are welcome. Invite a friend. Pastor Heagy will lead the studies. Bibles will be provided or bring your own.

### Monday / 7 PM-8 PM

March 7	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 / Romans 10:8b-13
March 14	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 / Philippians 3:17-4:1
March 21	Isaiah 55:1-9 / 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
March 28	Joshua 5:9-12 / 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
April 3	Isaiah 43:16-21 / Philippians 3:4b-14

### Thursday / 10 AM-11:15 AM

March 10	Luke 4:1-13
March 17	Luke 13:31-35
March 24	Luke 13:1-9
March 31	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
April 7	John 12:1-8





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

**WELCOME to the Lord's Family...**

On February 19, we rejoiced with Matthew and Amanda Giehll and their families on the baptism of Leo Charles Giehll. Leo was born on August 14, 2018, and sponsored by Nicole Giehll and Tara Swartzlander. Congratulations!



**Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the Cross of Christ forever, may Leo know God's love and mature into a disciple of our Lord Jesus.**

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** for the April issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by Sunday, March 20th. Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.

**THE CHURCH extends its condolences and love** to the family of David Rosser, who entered Life Triumphant on February 23. David was a long time member of our church and was loved by his Sunday School students. His memorial service will be held in the sanctuary later this summer and he will be interred in our columbarium.

**Meal with the Poor- Daily Bread Ministries  
March 13th**

This month's menu will be Cowboy Stew, cornbread, fruit cup & dessert. Donations are now being accepted in the Meal with the Poor 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.



**Spring Forward!  
Daylight savings time begins  
March 13h**

**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 the Vigil of Easter and Easter Day celebrations.

In lieu of flowers, 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 April 3.

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily [6 1/2 pot] at \$10.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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, St. Michael's Food Bank; Afghan Refugees Resettlement Fund;

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Please **print** the bulletin acknowledgement you desire:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Food Truck Party

On a Roll with God!



## Vacation Bible School

July 11-15, 2022

*"Give us this day our daily bread."  
Matthew 6:11*

### VBS Volunteers Needed—Youth and Adults

Volunteers are needed to help, some during VBS week, July 11-15. Other tasks can be done before or after VBS, in the evenings, weekends or whenever convenient. **VBS will be held in-person, and many of the activities will be outside.**

To volunteer: contact [MBTrivilino@verizon.net](mailto:MBTrivilino@verizon.net) or call the church office at 412-563-0300.

## Cokesbury VBS Workshop (Virtual) March 5

VBS Training Workshop (Virtual)  
Saturday, March 5 – 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, snacks, etc. If you would like to participate in the March 5<sup>th</sup> morning workshop, please email [MBTrivilino@verizon.net](mailto:MBTrivilino@verizon.net) ASAP.

## Lenten Devotion Booklets

The **Lenten Devotional** booklet *"Come to the Light: Daily Prayers for Lent"* by Sarah Thomas-Tracey is available for parishioners to guide them on their Lenten journey. Through these devotions, Sarah invites and encourages readers to spend time reflecting with God's Word through Scripture and a daily prayer, calling us away from distractions and sin, and calling us to *"Come to the Light."* These booklets are available to pickup in the Narthex and Foyer. Please contact the Church office if you would like one to be mailed to you.

**Lenten Devotions for Children:** We also have *"What Do I See at Calvary?"* by Arden W. Mead. These daily devotions for families ask young children to imagine the sights they might have seen as they followed Jesus throughout Jerusalem during Holy Week. Filled with colorful illustrations, scriptures and prayers, these simple devotions bring our salvation story in to bright focus for young children. They will be distributed to families in Sunday School.

**Lenten Devotions for Teens:** The booklet *"Lent is on the Way"* includes *Daily Navigations and Motivations for Teens and Young Adults*. The maritime imagery and devotions featuring aquatic stories from the Bible serve to anchor teens to the Lenten messages of repentance, forgiveness and salvation. These booklets will be distributed in Catechism classes.

We have many more **Lenten, Holy Week and Easter resources available** to us through our **digital subscription**, including art projects, recipes, videos, reading guides, coloring pages, prayer catchers, and more. Contact [MBTrivilino@verizon.net](mailto:MBTrivilino@verizon.net) for digital access.

*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.*

**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*



# THANK YOU!

## Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church's 2022 Collection

raised:

### \$458.80 and 183 food items

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



### February 13, 2022

Alison Reese  
Executive Director  
Souper Bowl of Caring

### Souper Bowl of Caring

The many donations on Sunday, February 13 for the 2022 Souper Bowl of Caring are appreciated!

**\$458.80 and many cans of soup!**

Souper Bowl proceeds will be given to St. Michael's Food Pantry. They are very appreciative of all we do to help with hunger relief in their local community. Thanks again for your generosity.

#### **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).



## AFGHAN REFUGEE DONATION DRIVE

The response was amazing! Thank you to ALL for your generous in-kind donations of sheets, dishes, kitchen supplies, cleaning supplies, coats, gloves, etc. etc. etc. as well as very appreciated gift cards that were used to buy difficult to donate items. And a special thank you goes to the member who made such a large donation that it filled half the narthex!! These items have been delivered to the warehouse and are already being placed in homes and temporary housing as the new Afghan neighbors arrive in our community. The need will continue as our friends resettle in Pittsburgh so keep your eyes out for other ways to help. Thank you! Thank you!

### Blanket Tying

Thanks to all for yet another successful blanket project! With a Thrivent grant and monetary donations, we were able to purchase material to create over 45 blankets which were made by our youth, church members and our Bhutanese partners. Please read the note below sent by Bob Maravelli-Director of Daily Bread Ministries. Thank you again for this wonderful ministry.



*Dear friends,*

*I want to thank you for the wonderful gift of warm blankets that you gave to Daily Bread Ministry. As we care for those struggling with homelessness, it has been a brutal winter, and I have sensed how tired and worn our men and women are as they cope with the cold temperatures, wind, snow, and ice. Your gifts have brought such encouragement into their lives. Thank you.*

*At our ministry location, we have some men who sleep outside the church in covered areas. I wish we had the capacity to house people, but I am grateful that there are other places for them to go. However, these men, for many reasons, chose to stay outside. As I pulled up to the church the other morning, I smiled because I saw these men wrapped up in beautifully colored blankets. The bright color of the blankets was such a stark contrast to the grayness of day. In that moment, I thanked God for you. I also thought about the brightness and hope you brought to these men's lives.*

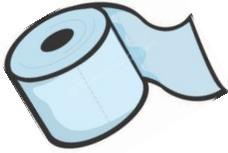
*Again, thank you so much!*



# Lenten Social Ministries Project 2022

## Daily Bread Ministries

### Toilet Paper Drive



Mt. Lebanon Lutheran-Let's all join together in our Lent 2022 Toilet Paper Challenge!!

Currently the #1 need for our friends at Daily Bread Ministries is Toilet Paper!

Our church has received a Thrivent grant to purchase 250 rolls of toilet paper. Our congregational challenge is to match that number and EXCEED it!

During the season of Lent think of our neighbors in need and bring a pack of toilet paper (or 2 or 3) to the narthex. The youth and Sunday School will inventory the donations and keep us informed of our progress. Look for the tower of toilet paper in the church foyer and watch as it grows and grows! The collection will begin Ash Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and conclude Easter morning, April 17. Thank you all for your help in our Lenten Project.

Any questions, please contact Sara Dougherty at 412-523-1499



## **St. Michael's Food Pantry**

**For many years, Mt. Lebanon Lutheran has been a partner with Saint Michael & All Angels Lutheran Church located in the Spring Garden neighborhood-northside of Pittsburgh, in support of their food pantry. The church and food pantry have gone through some changes in the past year and now are back in full swing. The new director of the food pantry, Jaye Cawkins, has provided a list of the most needed items at this time. These are items that are commonly requested but are very difficult to come by. Please refer to the list below as you purchase items to support the pantry. Thank you! Also, a big thank you to Clarence Gourley who faithfully delivers the food items to St. Michael's!**

### **St. Michael's Food Pantry**

**Most Needed items as of 2/15/22**

**After doing some inventory and a lot of thinking I have a list of some items that are hard to come by for the Food Bank. Any donations are greatly appreciated by our clients.**

**Sugar, we have many requests for this.**

**Brown sugar and powdered sugar**

**cooking oil**

**crackers of any kind**

**salad dressings, Ranch is most popular**

**BBQ sauce**

**grated cheese**

**pasta, regular spaghetti noodles or shapes**

**condiments, ketchup, mustard, mayo, relish**

**cake mix**

**brownie mix**

**frosting**

**napkins**

**laundry soap**

**Thanks so much for all you do for St Michael's Food Bank.**



## 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 the Vigil of 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 posterboard will be placed in the narthex beginning March 6 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 some other location other than the sanctuary. Participation of home-bound 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.





## 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](http://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](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

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### **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](http://thrivent.com) today.





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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.





# MARCH 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 4:00 Catechetics 1 Social Hall	2 Ash Wednesday 11:00 & 7:30 Worship Liturgies	3 10:00 Bible Study— James	4	5
6 <b>First Sunday in Lent</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:30 Catechetics 2	7 7:00 Bible Study Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Romans 10:8b-13	8 4:00 Catechetics 1 Social Hall	9	10 10:00 Bible Study Luke 4:1-13	11	12
13 <b>Second Sunday in Lent</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:30 Catechetics 2 2:00 Meal with the Poor	14 7:00 Bible Study Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Philippians 3:17—4:1	15 4:00 Catechetics 1 Social Hall	16	17 10:00 Bible Study Luke 13:31-35	18	19
20 <b>Third Sunday in Lent</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 Isaiah 55:1-9 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	22 4:00 Catechetics 1 Social Hall	23	24 10:00 Bible Study Luke 13:1-9	25	26
27 <b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting	28 7:00 Bible Study Joshua 5:9-12 2 Corinthians 5:16-21	29 4:00 Catechetics 1 Social Hall	30	31 10:00 Bible Study Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32		



**Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church  
Safe and Healthy Practices for  
In-Person Worship and Activities On Site**

**Updated February 27, 2022**

**As we return to our congregational campus for Worship, Christian Education, and other Activities, we are taking great care to provide safe conditions with practices that are informed by respected health experts and organizations.** While closely monitoring our ever-evolving circumstances, we will safely congregate to praise and worship the Lord in person. Virtual worship and livestreaming will continue for those unable to join in person.

**When in the Building**

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

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

**Facemasks** are optional while in the building. Those who wish to continue wearing their masks will be welcomed and respected. One-time use masks will be available at the rear entrance and in the Narthex for those who wish to wear a mask.

**Worship Practices**

**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!)

**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 [myE-offering](#) link at [www.MtLebanonLutheran.org](http://www.MtLebanonLutheran.org).

**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.

**Distribution of Holy Communion:** Social distance down the middle aisle to receive the Eucharist and dispose of your portion cups in the receptacles located on either side of each section of pews as you return to your seats. Do not consume the elements until you have moved beyond the tables on either side of the center aisle.

*...continued*

### **At the Conclusion of Worship**

**Fellowship in the Narthex** is held near the Narthex doors or outside. Individual beverages and packaged treats will be available for all to enjoy while greeting one another.

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)**

**Livestream Worship** is held each week on our Facebook page during the 8:30 AM Liturgy.

**On Demand Worship** is available on our congregation's Facebook page and our YouTube Channel.

Both are accessed easily 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 [myE-offering](#) will continue to be available on our website's homepage. ([www.MtLebanonLutheran.org](http://www.MtLebanonLutheran.org))

## **Ash Wednesday Worship and Revision to Mask Guidelines**

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

This week begins the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday March 2. In-person Liturgies will be held at 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM and will include the imposition of ashes. The 7:30 PM Liturgy also will be livestreamed on Facebook. All are encouraged to attend in-person worship on this solemn day.

### **MASKING GUIDELINES**

**The Congregational Council has voted unanimously to end the mask mandate in our church building. Face coverings are now optional.** Social distancing practices remain in place. The Council will continue to monitor the situation and refine guidelines as necessary.

On February 25, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance for mask wearing. By following the CDC guidelines, we join the policy now in place with the Mt. Lebanon School District. Allegheny County's "low transmission" status was a main factor in adopting the new guidelines.

The CDC notes that people may choose to mask at any time. People who are not yet vaccinated or have other health and/or family considerations are welcomed and should feel comfortable and respected as they continue to wear masks in the church building.

Additional information appears in the March edition of "The Voice".



**1 Women's History Month** Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements, influence, leadership, stories, gifts and faithful witness of women in our church and society throughout history. Pray for women who suffer injustice, demeaning stereotypes, violence and poverty, that they will cling to hope and be delivered from their suffering and persecution to live freely and boldly as loved and valued children of God.

**2 Ash Wednesday** On this day, let us approach God in prayer with humble and penitent hearts, marking ourselves with the ashes of our messy, fragile human lives yet doing so with the reassuring sign of the cross — the mark of Jesus Christ, our source of forgiveness, salvation, hope and new life.

**3** Pray for our synod bishops and presiding bishop as they gather for the Conference of Bishops. Ask God to bless their time together for worship, study, building relationships and deliberating on how we can share the good news of Jesus Christ, serve our neighbor, strive for justice and peace, work alongside our global companions and grow the church.

**4** Praise God, who is boundless, awesome, merciful, pure and attentive, and who loves justice and peace.

**5** Remember in prayer refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria who have been stuck at the Belarus-Poland border since last November; pray for the Lutheran Church in Belarus as it assists refugees with translation services, food, clothing, hygiene items and other essentials; and give thanks for the support and assistance we are able to provide through Lutheran Disaster Response.

**6** Give thanks that we know Jesus as the son of God, who did not give in to worldly temptations of power or serving his own needs but humbled himself and demonstrated God's sacrificial love for the salvation and healing of humankind.

**7** Pray for the work, advocacy and networks of ELCA Disability Ministry, and that our congregations and communities might, without hesitation, preconception or limitation, connect with and embrace people living with disabilities, inviting them into full participation in the life and leadership of the church and society.

**8 International Women's Day** Celebrate and give thanks to God for the gifts, influence and leadership of women and girls everywhere. Pray that we will continue to strive for a world free of bias and injustice, providing women and girls with equitable access to education, health care, work and opportunities to use their gifts in the church, our communities and our world.

**9** Ask the Spirit to help us see beyond our weaknesses and self-doubt and confess with confidence our faith in the saving, life-giving love of Jesus Christ and the encouragement we receive from our siblings in Christ.

**10** Give thanks that our church accompanies our global companions, working together to share God's love, respond to neighbors in need and participate in God's mission.

**11** Lift up prayers of gratitude that God is our refuge and fortress, the one in whom we can trust in every circumstance, no matter how complicated or threatening.

**12** During Lent, as we spend time reflecting on our human weakness and limitations, pray that we do not slip into discouragement or hopelessness but allow the Spirit to lead us toward the hope, forgiveness and newness we receive as a gift through Jesus Christ, the manifestation of God's enduring and redeeming love for us.

**13** Give thanks for the humbling, awe-inspiring example of Jesus Christ, who persisted in his ministry and work of healing the world undeterred by criticism and death threats. Pray that the Spirit will inspire and embolden us to be committed and unwavering as we care for our neighbors in need, sharing our faith and spreading the life-changing good news of Jesus Christ.

**14** Pray for the community ministries of congregations across the country that serve neighbors in need through community gardens, meals, food pantries, homeless shelters, counseling, disaster response, neighborhood renewal, day care for children and adults, educational opportunities and connecting volunteers with ecumenical partners and community organizations.

**15** Pray that being siblings in Christ will inspire us to encourage and care for one another; equip each other to live our faith and serve our neighbor; strive for justice and peace in the world; trust each other with our joys, sorrows and questions; and gather together to praise God for claiming and restoring us as loved children with an eternal inheritance.

**16** Our church has deep, long-standing relationships with Lutheran churches and partners around the world. Pray that we will grow stronger as a global church, receive one another's gifts and expertise, and support the growth and work of our companions, which includes urban and youth outreach, establishing new congregations, providing theological education, pursuing justice and peace, and training new leaders.

**17** Thank God for our special relationship with the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. 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.

**18** Ask God to remind us that we accomplish far more of God's work in the world by embracing relationships and partnerships with our siblings in Christ and others.

**19** Pray for ELCA Global Mission personnel, Young Adults in Global Mission and seminary interns who accompany and support the work of our companion churches around the world, especially as they adapt to the changing needs, circumstances and opportunities in their respective countries during the lingering pandemic.

**20 First day of spring** Praise God for the wonders of creation and the signs of hope, life and renewal that emerge with spring.

**21** Pray that our lives, relationships and behaviors might reflect God's patience and undeserved confidence in our capacity to change, grow and love as the Spirit works within us.

**22 World Water Day** God's gift of water — in all its forms — nourishes and sustains life and stirs awe and wonder. Pray that we will faithfully steward the water resources entrusted to our care and enjoyment. Pray that we will work together to conserve water, help those who lack access to clean water, take thoughtful action during droughts and do the work of cleaning up and protecting water that we have polluted or misused.

**23** Give thanks for God's faithfulness, actions, teaching and example throughout the ages, which guide us to follow the word and desires of God, enrich our faith, and bear hope and the good news of Jesus Christ to all people.

**24** Pray for ELCA missionaries serving alongside church bodies and companion organizations in Central America to train leaders; share the gospel; respond to poverty, hunger and violence; advocate for laws that respect the human rights and dignity of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers; and teach church leaders to care for victims of trauma.

**25** "My mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you" (Psalm 63:5-8). Thank God for being our ready help and refuge in every moment of our life.

**26** Across the country, congregations and synods working with resettlement agencies are sponsoring individuals and families who have been evacuated from Afghanistan. Pray that the Spirit will guide our efforts to welcome, support and care for people who are resettling and adjusting to unfamiliar communities, neighbors and cultures. Give thanks for the challenging and essential work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran Services in America and the ELCA's AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).

**27** Recall recent experiences — personal or witnessed — when God's grace far exceeded your expectations and comprehension. Lift up prayers of acknowledgment and gratitude to God.

**28** Ask God to build up our resiliency, optimism, hope and confidence in God's presence when we feel anxious, overwhelmed or powerless in today's world.

**29** Rejoice and give thanks to God for surrounding us with steadfast love and forgiveness that cannot be taken away or diminished by anyone or anything.

**30** Remember in prayer poets who free us to see and contemplate in new ways the beauty and complexity of creation, diverse human experiences, challenging social conditions and our faith.

**31** Pray for the leaders from across our church who serve on the ELCA Church Council. Ask the Spirit to guide them as they support, review, advise and enable God's work in the world with thoughtfulness, integrity, respect and partnerships sharing a common vision.



## Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

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### The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### The Reverend Kurt Kusserow

Bishop  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

### The Reverend Douglas M. Heagy

Senior Pastor

### Mr. Larry Allen

Director of Music and Organist

### Mrs. Kris Malia

Parish Secretary

### Mr. Michael Eck

Sexton

## The Great and Holy Week

### Holy Thursday— Festive Sanctuary Worship & Live stream on Facebook

April 14 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 was stripped of glory and placed into the hands of His captors. The choir will sing a special cantata.

### Good Friday-Festive Sanctuary Worship & Live stream on Facebook

April 15 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 as the path of Jesus is traced through the sanctuary.



## Resurrection Sunday

Sunday, April 17

Festive Sanctuary Worship 8:30 and 10:00 AM  
Virtual Worship Live stream on Facebook 8:30 Am



**Alleluia! He is Risen!**