

the *Voice* parish newsletter

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



Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. --Ephesians 5:14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, for it is shameful even to mention what people do secretly. “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (Ephesians 5:6-14)

The 40-day season of Lent was once a rigorous period of preparation for baptism. The catechumens were primarily adults wanting to join the church. They were carefully examined; everything was on the table for review—employment, behavior, and club memberships that might conflict with following Christ. The early church had a vetting process many Christians today would not recognize or care to endure.

Among the symbols in ancient times when becoming a Christian were *light* and *darkness*. To become a Christian meant crossing over from darkness to light; from death to life; from slumber to service. The exhortation in the above Bible passage reveals, however, the temptation of previous conduct. Much of what we choose to do each day bears no fruit. In fact, some activities—including the “fun” ones---may lead us from light to darkness. ***Sleeper, awake!*** sounds like an urgent warning of a parent to a small child---“***Don’t touch that! Be careful! Watch your step!***

The world, emerging from the pandemic, has made a bad turn into a vicious war. The dawn of order appeared imminent, but chaos has now arisen. The early church engaged in symbolism at Easter time, most notably the crossing from darkness to light; from slumbering to waking. We no longer enforce the same level of scrutiny as was the custom in the early church, but laxity still makes us prone to habits antithetical to God.

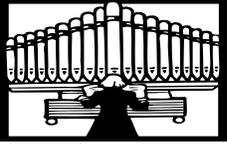
Let us return to worship with enthusiasm on Easter Sunday---all of us! Infection rates have subsided. ***“Sleeper, awake!”*** Let us make the most of our time, regarding worship as something gratefully undertaken, but also an act of obedience to the Lord our God. We are children of light. Let us rise from the dead. Christ shines on us in worship. His light is given for all the world. ***“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”***

In Christ

Pastor Doug Heagy



April, 2022



MUSICAL MUSINGS

APRIL 2022

April is soon upon us and, with it, we hope, warm temperatures and bright sunshine! As we round out the season of Lent there are events in Holy Week to which I would call your attention:

Palm Sunday, April 10 – The choir sings at both liturgies, and the children’s ensemble, led by Barb Heagy and Hannah Morrison will sing at 10.

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7:30 pm. Our traditional Tenebrae Service will assume a slightly different shape this year. We will have the traditional communion service and the stripping of the altar. We will also have a cantata, “Light in the Darkness,” which tells the story of Christ’s journey during the three days. There are places for the congregation to join in singing with the choir, settings of familiar Lenten hymns. Oboist *Amelia van Howe* joins us to accompany the choir and to provide some instrumental solos. It should be a special occasion.

Good Friday, April, 15, 7:30 pm. *The Way of the Cross* retells the story of Jesus’ passion with hymns sung by the congregation and the choir leading from the front of the nave.

Easter Sunday, April 17, 8:30 and 10:00: Festival Easter music for choir, organ, and percussion. Percussionist Mitch Greco (husband of our soprano soloist, Caryn Crozier Greco) joins us with timpani. He will also accompany on other percussion instruments when the choir sings a rousing set of Alleluias prior to our final hymn, “Jesus Christ is Risen Today.” The “Hallelujah Chorus” and Widor’s Toccata for organ will also make an appearance.

A blessed Holy Week and Easter to each of you.

Larry Allen

SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE:

April, 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 mlebo-luth@aol.com

	8:30	10:00
April 3-Crucifer	Addy Wetzel	Luke Frankovitch
April 10-Crucifer	Cameron Mayer	Carter Lutz
April 17-Easter Crucifer	Hunter Rheinfrank	Dylan Snyder
April 24-Crucifer	Xavier Graybill	Natalie Cox

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Easter stewardship: Resurrection reset

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. -Romans 6:3-4

Christ is Risen! Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

The triumphant words we cherish every Easter signal more than just Jesus' victory over the grave. They announce for us the end of deadness and the start of a new life, a fresh beginning, in our earthly pilgrimage. Jesus was raised from the dead so that we, too, might walk in newness of life.

From Jesus' resurrection, our lives take on a new trajectory, a turn away from the values and precepts of the world and toward the kingdom of God. As we journey, our lives progressively align with the purposes and mission of God. For a steward-disciple of our Lord, the implications are many. As we walk in newness of life, we might find ourselves

Re-examining our relationship to “stuff” – our money, our possessions, the things that might have given us a sense of security or worth. Jesus is our security and our worth.

Drawing closer to family and friends. True wealth is measured by the love we give and receive. Our lives effervesce with the love we receive from God.

Contributing more to church and charity. Jesus frees us from the grip that possessions have upon us. We can more freely give.

Gathering into our lives what Paul calls the fruits of the spirit: “Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).

May your lives as steward-disciples take a resurrection reset. Christ is risen! Risen indeed! Alleluia!

--Rob Blezard

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EASTER BIBLE STUDIES

THE POST-RESURRECTION APPEARANCES OF JESUS

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life."

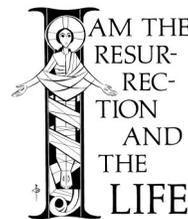
Participants will discuss the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus as they're found in the four Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, other New Testament writings; and as they've occurred throughout history and in our own lives. All are welcome. Bring a friend. Pastor Heagy will lead the studies on Monday nights and Thursday mornings. Bibles will be provided or bring your own. Christ is risen indeed!

Monday / 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

April 18
April 25
May 2
May 16
May 23
May 30

Thursday / 10:00 AM-11:15 AM

April 21
April 28 (Holocaust Remembrance)
May 5
May 12
May 19
May 26 (The Ascension of Our Lord)
June 2





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

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

April 3 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21
 Psalm 126
 Philippians 3:4b-14
 John 12:1-8

April 10 Sunday of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Luke 23:1-49

Liturgies for Holy Week at 7:30 PM
 Wednesday Virtual Devotion
 Maundy Thursday
 Good Friday

April 17 The Resurrection of Our Lord [Easter]

Acts 10:34—43
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 1 Corinthians 15:19-26
 Luke 24:1-12

April 24 Second Sunday in Easter

Acts 5:27-32
 Psalm 118:14-29
 Revelation 1:4-8
 John 20:19-31

Sunday School 10:00 AM
The Liturgy may be viewed on our Facebook page

Sunday School students are now meeting in their classrooms. They will meet in the Social Hall after class for Kids' Choir. Parents can meet their kids there.

and YouTube Channel

First Holy Communion....For those second graders [and older children who have not yet been instructed], First Communion instruction dates are listed below. The children who receive instruction will celebrate their First Holy Communion at the **10:00 liturgy on Sunday, May 15.**

Full participation in the Eucharistic life of the Church is a milestone in a young person's life for "at the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel."



Parish practices vary widely on the age and circumstances for full participation in the Lord's Supper. However, it was over 30 years ago that the Lutheran Church in America separated "confirmation" and the reception of Holy Communion. Since that time, congregations have continued to lower the age at which children are instructed and invited to commune.

First Communion instruction in Eastertide 2022 will be offered on Saturday mornings, promptly at 10:00 AM, on April 23 and May 14. Classes will be one hour in length. Attendance is required! Parents of students [particularly, if this is a first child receiving instruction] are encouraged to attend.

Questions with regard to communion practices and/or First Communion instruction are welcome and should be directed to the Pastor. Please contact him also if you have scheduling conflicts with the above dates.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the May issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by **Sunday, April 17.** Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.

Looking Ahead
 Upcoming Feast Days

Ascension of Our Lord
 Thursday, May 26th

Day of Pentecost
 Confirmation Sunday
 June 5

The Holy Trinity
 June 12

NEW COLUMBARIUM - South Chancel Wall

As previously announced 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.



ACCEPTING A CONGREGATION'S LIMITATIONS FREES CHURCH MEMBERS AND PASTORS TO NUTURE REAL COMMUNITY AND MISSION

The link below (*type/copy and paste into the URL of your computer*) is to an article from *Christianity Today*, provided to me by the author, Kelly M. Kopic, who is Professor of Theological Studies at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Georgia. The three principles he outlines are helpful for our life together as we forge ahead from the pandemic. If you have the time to read his article, *Loving This Church—Not That One*, let me know what you think... **Pastor Doug Heagy**. Here's the link...

"Here's a link to the article: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2022/spring/love-church-within-limits-bonhoeffer-kelly-kopic.html?share=oFysb6EzdJxEpameYOQntg2a7groPT1d>

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

We can't serve fully from our sofas.

We can't have a full community of faith on our sofas.

We can't experience a sanctuary of believers worshipping together on our sofas.

Christians are servants, not consumers.

We are contributors.

We engage.

We give.

We sacrifice.

We encourage.

We pray by laying hands on the hurting.

We do life together.

The Church needs everyone. We all need the Church.

—Michael Carl



ONLINE GIVING

Is now available in association with

 myE offering

www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

WHAT IS myE offering?

myE offering 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 myE offering 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 myE offering?

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 myE offering 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.

As we pray for those who struggle in sickness and in sorrow, illumine with your light and 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; the family of Mary Nelson; the family of Annabelle Santos;

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).

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 participant will select one or more hours in the Holy Week during which they will maintain the Vigil.

A guidebook listing congregational members, missionaries, church leaders, governmental officials, the afflicted and homebound, as well as many others in need of prayer, is provided.

Too, in the guidebook you will find suggestions for opening and closing your hour of prayer. Common prayers in the booklet, hymnal, or supplemental prayerbook may assist you.

You will find the hour to pass very quickly!

You need not come to the church sanctuary to pray [although you are welcome]. Participants may pray *at home*, allowing a fuller participation in the Vigil by our home-bound and out-of-town members.

A large posterboard is located in the Narthex, providing spaces on which you can reserve your hours of participation in the Vigil. Or, you may call the Church Office during regular office hours to reserve your Vigil time.

God has appointed prayer as His method for conferring the blessings we all need, whether spiritual or temporal, for He has ordained that prayer shall be one of the causes that occasions His divine intervention.

Please join together with your fellow members in these great hours of prayer.

WELCOME to the Lord's Family... On March 6, we rejoiced with Michael and Elizabeth Koval and their families on the baptism of Murray James Koval. Murray was born on March 1, 2021, and sponsored by Eric and Jyerim Smith. Congratulations!

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

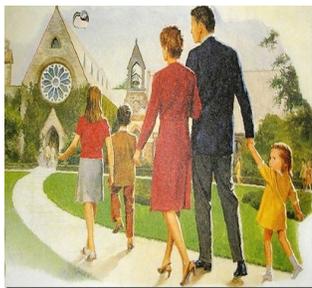
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

On Sunday, March 27, we were pleased to welcome Jeffrey and Julia Nelson and their children, Hannah, Todd, and Joel to our church family. Please introduce yourself and greet them at the worship services.



HOME SWEET HOME

Welcome to the House of the Lord, where everyone is welcome. Enter into a great heartwarming place of worshippers, believers and friends; a place to reflect, think and pray. God is waiting for you at the door with open arms. Bring the whole family to share in God's word.



“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Exodus 20:8”

Second Quarter Editions of *Portals of Prayer*, our congregational family's daily devotional, are available in the Narthex. You are invited to take a copy for personal use and encouraged to use it daily in your meditative life.

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 Today—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:

**Lenten Midweek
Virtual Devotions:
"Prayers for Ukraine"
7:30 pm Wednesdays**

**God of protection, be with the
people of Ukraine.**

**Grant peace and healing as you
lead us from war to peace.
Guide leaders with your wisdom
and turn our eyes to your mercy
in this time of destruction.**



Coffee Fellowship

"SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP"

All are invited for a time of fellowship between worship liturgies. Enjoy food, beverage, and conversing with each other in the Narthex or Front Lawn (weather permitting).

The Evangelism Committee is looking for volunteers for coffee prep and clean up - Sponsorship—and preparing the sweet healthy treats for this time together.

Please see the sign up chart on the bulletin board in the hallway by the Narthex. Thank you.

Our Congregation is participating in the Coffee Project of Lutheran World Relief, helping small growers, their families and communities through the fair trade of coffee. By engaging in this fair trade program, we help people build a better future for themselves.



Food Truck Party:

On a Roll with God!

Vacation Bible School

July 11-15, 2022

9 am— noon



“Give us this day our Daily Bread.” Matthew 6:11

VBS Volunteers Needed— Youth and Adults

Volunteers are needed to help with Vacation Bible School, some during VBS week, July 11-15. Other tasks can be done before or after VBS, in the evenings, weekends or whenever convenient. A few positions have been filled, but there are still openings in site leader, crew leader and assistant roles, as well as decorating, setup and publicity. Help is needed with crafts, science, snacks, Bible storytelling, and games.

To volunteer: contact MBTrivilino@verizon.net or call the church office at 412-563-0300.

Look for VBS registration in May Newsletter, and soon on our Church website.

VBS items needed to borrow:

(for week of July 11-15)

- Tent Canopies, with stakes or sand bags
- Picnic table, outdoor chairs
- Potted plants or trees
- Picnic table cloths, checked would be nice
- String lights (not Christmas)
- Chef's hat and coat
- Plastic food props
- CD players

VBS Items to Donate:

- Paper towel tubes
 - old food magazines
 - Lunch bags (large size)
 - Balloons
 - Blue painter's tape, masking tape)
- Bright construction paper ~ and Volunteers needed to make **paper chains** for setup.

Look for updated list, including snack ingredients in the June Newsletter

CampBlast at Lutherlyn

May 7, 2022, 11:00 am - 4:30 pm

Join us for a **FREE** day of FUN that highlights all that Camp Lutherlyn has to offer. Rain or Shine! Many awesome indoor and outdoor activities to enjoy at CampBlast!

Go to <https://www.lutherlyn.com/events-retreats/campblast.html> for directions and schedule.

Camp Lutherlyn brochures are on the bulletin board in the lower entrance hallway.

Lutherlyn's 2022 Summer Camp Schedule

Week 1 June 19-24	-Camp Medley (JH) -Life in the Wild (Jr & JH) -Adventurers (JH & SH)	-Staff-In-Training (SH) -Horse Camp (Jr)
Week 2 June 26-July 1	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Horse Camp (JH) -Small Fry Days (Th & Fri)	-Adventurers PLUS (SH) -Young Folks (Sun-Wed) -Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri)
Week 3 July 3-8	-Family Camp -On-Site Day Camp (1st-5th grade)	-Adventurers PLUS (SH)
Week 4 July 10-15	-Arts & Musical (Jr & JH) -Classic (Jr) (JH) -Venture (SH)	-Horse Camp (Jr) -Adventurers (JH & SH)
Week 5 July 17-22	-Classic (Jr) (JH) (SH) -Advanced Horse Camp (JH & SH) -Camp Medley (JH)	-Adventurers (JH & SH)
Week 6 July 24-29	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Horse Camp (Jr) -Rocketry (JH & SH) -Junior Adventurers (Jr)	-Young Folks (Sun-Wed) -Small Fry Days (Th & Fri) -Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri)
Week 7 July 31– August 5	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Rocketry (Jr) -Horse Camp (JH)	-Night Owls (JH & SH) -Adventurers (JH & SH)

"Young Folks" - campers enter grades 2-3, "Jr" - campers enter grades 4-6, "JH" - campers enter grades 7-9, "SH" - campers enter grades 10-12 or a 2022 graduate



Registration for 2022 starts on February 1.
Campships are available for all who need assistance.
Visit www.lutherlyn.com/summer for details.



You Are Invited to CampBlast!

Saturday, May 7th, 2022, 11am-4:30pm

Join us for a day of FUN that highlights all that Lutherlyn has to offer. Horseback riding, campfire, crafts, gaga ball, archery, zipline, bouldering room, hiking, nature activities, canoeing, hay rides, games, sports, kayaking, LEGO room, tours, great food, and MORE!
The best part.... **EVERYTHING IS FREE!**
www.lutherlyn.com/campblast

\$100 off for FIRST-TIME campers!

This coupon entitles FIRST-TIME Lutherlyn campers to \$100 off of the registration fee for Summer 2022. This applies to Lutherlyn's residential week-long programs. Young Folks half-week programs get \$50 off for FIRST-TIME campers. Does not apply to Family Camp, Confirmation Camp, Day Camps, or Small Fry Days. Must be a FIRST TIME summer camper.

No additional discounts may be combined with this offer.

Enter coupon code: **FIRST**

Register at WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM.

(Please share this code with friends!)



The Great and Holy Week

April 10-15

The Passion of our Lord [Palm Sunday]

April 10 at 8:30 and 10:00 am



Recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, fronds of palm are distributed and blessed, asking that God would bless those who bear them and recipients would ever hail Jesus as their Lord and King. The Passion of our Lord is read from the Gospel of Saint Luke. In prayer, hymns, reading and proclaiming, we hear the great paradox of our faith: Christ is the mighty one who reigns from the tree of life.



Mid-Week Lenten Virtual Devotions: Prayers for Ukraine

April 13 at 7:30 pm



Holy Thursday

April 14 at 7:30 pm



The focus of Holy Thursday is not merely the “anniversary” of the institution of the Lord’s Supper, but rather an openheartedness to Jesus’ commandments: Love one another even as I have loved you and Do this in remembrance of me. Our worship liturgy will proclaim the loving servant hood of Christ. Following the Eucharist, the Altar is striped to signify Jesus’ betrayal, being stripped of His glory and willingly placed into the hands of His captors.

The Chancel Choir will present the cantata, “Light in the Darkness,” which tells the story of Christ’s journey during the three days. There are places for the congregation to join in singing with the choir, settings of familiar Lenten hymns. There will be narrations read by members of the congregation. Oboist *Amelia van Howe* joins us to accompany the choir and to provide some instrumental solos.

Good Friday

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.

**THROUGH THY CROSS AND
PASSION
O LORD + DELIVER US**

Social Ministries

NAME CHANGE—"Meal with the Poor" is now called "Daily Bread Outreach" On February 27, council voted to change the name, "Meal with the Poor" to "Daily Bread Outreach"-a fund designed to helping the needy and address poverty in our region. "Daily Bread" encompasses Martin Luther's belief that Daily Bread does not signify only food but rather pertains to Life's basic needs.

Martin Luther teaches us that daily bread is everything that we need in this earthly life, such as food, clothing, and shelter, upright and faithful rulers, good weather, good friends, and faithful neighbors.

Please continue your generous giving and thank you!



Youth Daily Bread Ministries Easter Bag Project

On **Tuesday, April 12 from 5:30-7:00**, the youth will be gathering to make Easter Care Bags for our friends at Daily Bread Ministries in the Northside. These bags will be distributed at their Easter Meal. The bags will include healthy snacks and water as well as Easter candy and an inspirational message/bible verse. Bags will be decorated in advance by the Sunday School kids and the older youth to add a little extra joy. (The bags we decorated in the past were a big hit!) Bags will be decorated during Sunday School but supplies to make the bags will also be located on the table in the church lobby. Feel free to pick up some bags to decorate at home-All are welcome to decorate!! Just be sure to return them before April 12.

Any youth from grades 7-12, please put April 12th on your calendar. Pizza, snacks and drinks will be provided!!

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

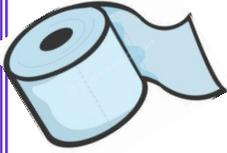
laundry soap

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

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 2nd 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





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.



APRIL 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Lent 5 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:30 Catechetics 2 Easter Flower Orders Due	4 7:00 Bible Study- Isaiah 43:16-21 & Phillipians 3:4b-14	5 4:00 Catechetics 1	6 7:00 Choir 7:30 Mid Week Virtual Lenten Devotions- "Prayers for Ukraine"	7 10:00 Bible Study Luke 12:1-8	8	9
10 Sunday of the Passion 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:30 Catechetics 2	11	12 4:00 Catechetics 1	13 7:00 Choir 7:30 Mid Week Virtual Lenten Devotions- "Prayers for Ukraine"	14 Maundy Thursday 7:30 Worship Liturgy	15 Good Friday 7:30 Worship Liturgy	16
17 Resurrection of Our Lord 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship	18 <i>Church Office Closed</i> 7:00 Bible Study-- The Post Resurrection Appearances of Jesus	19 4:00 Catechetics 1	20 7:00 Choir	21 10:00 Bible Study- The Post Resurrection Appearances of Jesus	22	23
24 Easter 2 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting	25 7:00 Bible Study- The Post Resurrection Appearances of Jesus	26 4:00 Catechetics 1	27 7:00 Choir	28 10:00 Bible Study- Holocaust Remembrance	29	30

**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.

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).

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)

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 Arab American Heritage Month Remember in prayer the diverse gifts, cultures, heritages and stories of our Arab and Middle Eastern neighbors and siblings in Christ, who remind us of the rich history and tradition of Christ's church in the world. Ask God to bless and advance the advocacy, witness, leadership development and support for ministries provided by ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries and the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage.

2 Give thanks for the resources of our church, including ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving, which guides us through Lent and helps us pray, study Scripture, respond to our neighbors in need and give generously for the good of communities around the world.

3 Pray that we will each use our unique gifts and passions as disciples of Christ, called to share the gospel and serve our neighbors, and that we will trust the Spirit to equip, inspire and embolden us for doing God's work in the world, together.

4 Give thanks for the commitment and work of planning team leaders, volunteers, youth ministry leaders in congregations and churchwide organization staff who prepared for the now-canceled 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering and are now refocusing their attention on the 2024 event; ask the Spirit to guide, strengthen and enliven their work.

5 Remember in prayer our neighbors in countries and regions beset by conflict, civil unrest or violence, including places we have forgotten because they have slipped from the headlines. Pray for healing, hope and strength for our neighbors who suffer trauma, loss, displacement or uncertainty, and pray that leaders will work to resolve conflicts, reconcile enemies and forge new relationships based on justice, respect for human life and mutual concern.

6 Pray that God will comfort and stir hope and joy in those who suffer grief; ask God to help us be present with them in their sorrow, bringing empathy, respect, support and patience.

7 Give thanks for Women of the ELCA and women of all ages who gather in more than 4,500 locations in the United States and the Caribbean for service, study, advocacy and fellowship, mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

8 Ask the Spirit to make us purveyors of grace, joy and unexpected generosity, especially to people who live with worry, despair, turmoil or loneliness.

9 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian (1906-1945) Remember and give thanks for our siblings in Christ — past and present — who risk their lives for justice, the well-being of our neighbors and the truth of the gospel. Pray that their witness, courage and sacrifice will inspire and guide our pursuit of justice and peace in the world.

10 Palm Sunday Jesus endured false accusations, betrayal by his closest followers, an unfair trial, public humiliation and the pain of death on a cross for our salvation and the fulfillment of God's promises. Give praise and thanks to the Son of God, the promised Messiah!

11 Pray for pastors and seminary students serving as chaplains for the armed forces, Veterans Affairs hospitals and federal correctional institutions, and for pastors serving in other contexts, including hospitals, nursing homes, hospice programs, social ministry programs, state and local correctional facilities, and organizations serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

12 Give joyful thanks that God's boundless, unimaginable love is made known to us in ways that we can grasp: through Jesus Christ's humble birth, life of service, suffering, death and resurrection.

13 Ask God to renew and strengthen our commitment and courage to face the painful truth of gun violence in our country — to prevent gun violence; attend to individuals, families and communities traumatized by it; advocate for common-sense gun safety laws; and care for the perpetrators of violent acts.

14 Maundy Thursday "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35). Pray that we will be mindful of how we bear witness to Jesus through our humility, sacrificial service, words of love and Spirit-inspired actions.

15 Good Friday Reflect on what we see in the cross, the feelings it evokes and what it represents in our faith and life. Pray that through the symbol of the cross we might see God's unconstrained power over death and God's awesome gift of grace that gives us life — both new life in the present and life eternal.

16 Pray that we will bear God's grace, mercy, hope and kindness to incarcerated youth and adults who experience isolation from society, our communities and the church.

17 Easter Day "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). Hallelujah! Shout prayers of joy and thanksgiving for the enduring, trustworthy gifts of love, forgiveness, healing and new life fulfilled by God in the resurrection of Jesus Christ — our Savior, teacher, hope and salvation.

18 Give thanks for faith-based preschools and day care centers that encourage faith, support parents and serve communities. Pray that their teachers, staff and administrators will be strengthened for their work providing safe and nurturing care for children.

19 Pray that the gifts of forgiveness, love and new life we receive through Jesus will fill us with joy, moving us to share the good news and work for healing and justice in the world.

20 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Western Iowa Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

21 Pray that the Spirit will lead us into conversations about faith and the good news of Jesus Christ with people we encounter in our daily lives; pray that we will see God working through us even when we feel uncomfortable or imperfect in expressing our faith.

22 Earth Day The mysteries and awe of creation defy our comprehension and stir wonder in us. Give praise, gratitude and recognition for all God has made for our sustenance and joy; pray that we will be wise, generous, responsible stewards and restorers of the earth's resources for the glory of our Creator.

23 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Alaska Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

24 What nagging questions do you have about Scripture, faith or God's actions in the world? Amid a life of doubt and uncertainty, ask God to grant us reassurance and insight; pray that our faith and belief will grow deeper and stronger through the work of the Spirit, the support of our siblings in Christ and the opportunities for study, prayer and discernment in our communities of faith.

25 Pray for church leaders and congregations participating in Valparaiso University's Institute of Liturgical Studies, a source of renewal and re-creation through worship, music, study and reflection on the church's challenges and opportunities after the pandemic.

26 "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 150:6). Consider how each thing you do today can glorify God.

27 Pray for congregations and communities preparing for severe weather, that they might preserve human life, respond to community needs, and prove resilient in the face of natural disaster. Give thanks for our ability to respond to disasters through Lutheran Disaster Response in collaboration with companion churches, disaster response organizations and ecumenical partners.

28 Give thanks for ELCA Young Adult Ministries, Young Adults in Global Mission and their work of providing inspiration, opportunities, connections and resources to young adults and people facilitating young adult ministries.

29 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Northeastern Minnesota and Arkansas-Oklahoma synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

30 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Minneapolis Area Synod, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

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



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

Pastor

Mr. Larry Allen

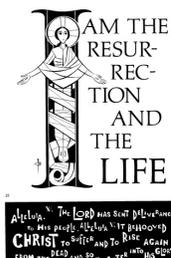
Director of Music and Organist

Mrs. Kris Malia

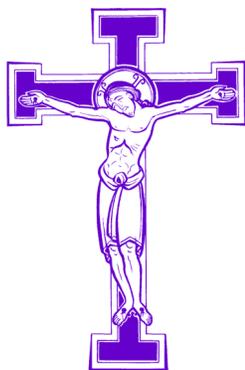
Parish Secretary

Mr. Michael Eck

Sexton



The Great and Holy Week April 10~16



The Passion of Our Lord [Palm Sunday]

April 10 at 8:30 and 10:00 am

Recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the Distribution of Palms

MID-WEEK VIRTUAL LENTEN DEVOTIONS

“Prayers for Ukraine”

April 13 at 7:30 PM



Maundy Thursday

April 14 at 7:30 pm—The Last Supper

Good Friday

April 15 at 7:30 pm—Tenebrae Liturgy

Resurrection Sunday

Sunday, April 17

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

