

# the Voice parish newsletter

*And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?*  
Matthew 6:27

Marshall Sahlins, a long-time professor at the University of Chicago (whose brother, Bernie, incidentally, founded the Second City Comedy troupe and later the acclaimed SCTV television show), often told his students this joke—a meeting between a missionary and a Samoan man he encountered lying on a beach.

*MISSIONARY:* Look at you! You're just wasting your life away, lying around like that.

*SAMOAN:* Why? What do you think I should be doing?

*MISSIONARY:* Well, there are plenty of coconuts all around here. Why not dry some copra and sell it?

*SAMOAN:* And why would I want to do that?

*MISSIONARY:* You could make a lot of money. And with the money you make, you could get a drying machine, and dry copra faster, and make even more money.

*SAMOAN:* Okay. And why would I want to do that?

*MISSIONARY:* Well, you'd be rich. You could buy land, plant more trees, expand operations. At that point, you wouldn't even have to do the physical work anymore, you could just hire a bunch of other people to do it for you.

*SAMOAN:* Okay. And why would I want to do that?

*MISSIONARY:* Well, eventually, with all that copra, land, machines, employees, with all that money—you could retire a very rich man. And then you wouldn't have to do anything. You could just lie on the beach all day.

Recently, after reading this joke, I decided to include it in the newsletter. It made me think about what people do; how we spend our time. I hope everyone is enjoying summer! Life is a gift for which we give thanks by worshiping God on Sundays, the day of our Lord's resurrection.

In Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy

*Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness.*  
Matthew 6:33



July, 2024

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



# MONDAY NIGHT STUDY GROUP THURSDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP

## *OUR CONGREGATION'S HISTORY*

In preparation for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our congregation in 2025, we have been reviewing our church history one decade at a time. Our final session will be on Monday, July 1st at 7:00 pm, and we will be discussing 2010 to the present. Photos and other archives will be shared. Pastor Heagy will lead the discussion, using a history of our church composed by Jean E. Mason, who was a history professor at Duquesne University.

**Monday, July 1**

**7:00 pm—8:00 pm**

**2010 – 2024**

*All are welcome to attend. Bring a friend.*



# FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

## The magic of 10-10-80 budgeting

When my twentysomething daughter recently got her first *real* job— one that paid good money and benefits – she asked me how to handle her finances.

It's a good question, a responsible question, and depending on your appetite for detail and complexity, one that could have dozens of answers. And certainly, there are lots of financial advisors and services that can provide help.

But my advice was simple: Follow the 10-10-80 formula. It has been my financial pole star for years, and it has enabled me to live free of financial stress. Here's how it works:

When you craft a budget (and you DO craft a budget, right?) spend it in this way:

Save 10 percent.

Give away 10 percent.

Live on 80 percent.

Following the formula takes discipline, but don't all worthwhile endeavors – reading the Bible, daily prayer, losing weight, or learning a language?

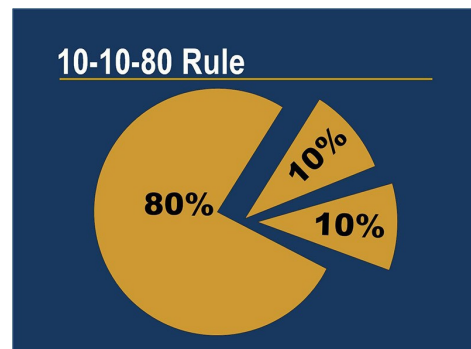
And like any good effort, getting into the formula is best accomplished gradually. Think long term. First, analyze your finances to find out the percentage that you save, give away, and live on. Then set goals and adjust your finances accordingly.

For instance, if your current spending is 1 percent giving, 2 percent savings, 97 percent living, set a goal to increase savings and giving over time until you reach 10-10-80. One or two percentage points a year will get you there in just a few years.

When you're living the formula, you're in the sweet spot of financial freedom. You have enough to pay your bills, save for the future, and be generous.

—Rob Blezard

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## SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: JULY, 2024

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

### July 7-Crucifer

8:30 Isla Gentzel

10:00 Gabriel Provins

### July 14-Crucifer

8:30 Sam Wetzel

10:00 Milo Bucher

### July 21- Crucifer

8:30 Chase Lutz

10:00 Jack O'Brien

### July 28-Crucifer

8:30 Annaleigh Dwulit

10:00 Addy Wetzel

### "SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP"

All are invited for a time of fellowship between worship liturgies. Enjoy food, beverage, and conversing with each other in the Foyer.

**Hope to see you there.**

**The Evangelism Committee is looking for volunteers for coffee prep and clean up and preparing the sweet healthy treats for this time together. Please see the sign up chart in the Foyer. Thank you.**



### **Mt. Lebanon Farmers' Market**

[sponsored by the Lions' Club]  
**Wednesdays 4:00—7:00 PM**  
**in our parking lot.**



### **Summer Camp is on this summer at Camp Lutherlyn!**

Check out all the programs, schedules, events & registration info at <https://www.lutherlyn.com/>



Third Quarter Editions of Christ in Our Home, 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 prayer life.





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

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

## The Word of the Lord

July 7 Time after Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-5  
Psalm 123  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-13

July 14 Time after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15  
Psalm 85:8-13  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 6:14-29

July 21 Time after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28 Time after Pentecost

2 Kings 4:42-44  
Psalm 145:10-18  
Ephesians 3:14-21  
John 6:1-21

**VBS**  
**July 15-19, 2024**  
**9:00 am—noon**

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** for the August issue of the August Voice are to be submitted by Sunday, July 14th. Articles may be left in the church or emailed to [Mtleboluth@aol.com](mailto:Mtleboluth@aol.com)



## WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

Oh Christ, bless and uphold all who are in pain or sickness this day.  
Teach us how to be alongside them and to share in their distress deeply in our prayers. Make us open to them and give us courage to suffer with them, that in so doing, we share with you the suffering of the world. Especially bring healing into the lives of:

Craig Elias; Andy Kelemen; Linda Larkin; Jennifer Meyer; Marlott Schocker;

Please call the church office with any changes to the prayer list. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month, unless a request has been made to add, delete, or keep the names as listed. All you need do is call the church office and let us know.

### Ronald L. Oakes

December 18, 1932

June 7, 2024



It has pleased Almighty God to call unto himself, his faithful servant, Ronald L. Oakes, at the age of 92. He is survived by his wife Ila, son Mark and many family. His private funeral was here at our church, and he was interred into our columbarium.

*Our congregational family continues to remember  
Ronald's family in prayer.*

**WELCOME...**On June 23rd we received Kennedy Austin Coleman through the waters of baptism. She was born on January 12, 2024, and is the daughter of Michael & Brittany Coleman. Sponsors for her baptism were David & Kaitlyn Horvath.

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



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

We are pleased to welcome:  
Michael & Brittany Coleman,  
and daughter Kennedy  
to our congregational family.  
Please be sure to introduce yourself and  
greet them at the worship services.



# Your Place. Your Passion.



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

## 5 UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES:

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

## EXPERIENCE LIFE AT VALPO

**70+**

MAJORS

**100+**

STUDENT  
ORGANIZATIONS

**21**

DIVISION I  
ATHLETICS PROGRAMS

**100+**

ARTS PERFORMANCES  
ANNUALLY

**50+**

STUDY ABROAD  
PROGRAMS

**VALPARAISO**  **UNIVERSITY**

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

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

## Is There A Summer Season?

To speak of the Sundays after Pentecost as “the summer season” is, admittedly, an artificial construction. The Church Year does not have a “summer” season, yet many of the lectionary images, festivals and liturgical texts of summer contain images that correspond with these months as they are experienced in the Northern Hemisphere.

And as the summer progresses, the harvests take many forms. By paying attention to the natural growth cycle, we are attached to the changes of nature and can also anticipate the life of the liturgical cycle.

And while “paying attention” is part of reading the signs of the times, it may appear merely mechanical. But much of this year’s lectionary connects what is happening in nature with what is happening [or supposed to be happening] in our hearts.

As the Torah calls for the sacrifice of the first fruits, why don’t we acknowledge the various harvests [snow peas, berries, corn, squash, watermelon] that trace across the summer? Even the most urban of our parishes are not far removed from agriculture, even if the agriculture is micro-farming in window boxes.

In short, the environment of this season is ourselves and our watching the change of life in our midst. Our festal cycle has a list of heroes and heroines during the summer—evangelists Mark and Matthew and apostles Philip and James, Peter and Paul, and Bartholomew. We remember the early followers: Barnabas and Mary Magdalene, as well as the birth of John the Baptist and Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

While the experience of the first half of the church’s year of grace has been intensely an experience of becoming, the “green season” after Pentecost [summer] [ordinary time] is a season to be aware of just who we have become.

And in remembering who we have become and how we have come to gather in God’s House and Who has guided us, we are to remember how we should live as God’s children.



## Daily Bread Outreach Meal

July 21



The meal with the poor in July will be a cookout including grilled hot dogs, brats, chips & soda. Monetary donations are being accepted. Volunteers will be needed to serve the meal. Please see sign up sheet in the Narthex.. Thank you for your support.

**GLOBAL LINKS**  
*Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.*

**Wednesday, July 10**

**1-3:00 pm**

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

Sign-up sheets have been placed in the narthex or if you are interested in volunteering. Please contact Sara Dougherty at 412-523-1499 or [tjdsjd@verizon.net](mailto:tjdsjd@verizon.net) if any questions.

## Bible Verses about Gardening

Isaiah 35:1-2

Isaiah 28:23-29

Genesis 2:8, 15

Matthew 6:28-30

Luke 21:29-32

Mark 13:28-30

Psalms 104:14-16

Ezekiel 4:9

Ezekiel 47:19

Exodus 30:34

Isaiah 38:21

Luke 13:18



Mark your calendars:

**Fall Adult Dinner & Fellowship**  
**Sunday, September 8, 2024**



Please join us to kick off the new Church Year

*More details in future bulletins and Voice Newsletters*

**Sunday School Teachers & Substitutes Needed**

We are recruiting additional Sunday School Teachers and Substitutes for the fall. Specific needs are for Teachers in the Pre-K/Kindergarten class, and for substitutes in the Elementary class. Adults and teens age 16 and older are eligible to teach.

We have a team-teaching system in which volunteers teach every other week or every 3 weeks, depending on their availability. The curriculum is very easy to use, and the children are a lot of fun! For more information or to volunteer, please call the Church office or contact Mary Beth at [MBTrivilino@verizon.net](mailto:MBTrivilino@verizon.net)

**Sunday School Classes resume on Rally day, September 8, 2024.**

Look for the Sunday School registration form in the August *Voice Newsletter*.



# Vacation Bible School

Come join us this summer for:

## Camp Firelight

A Summer Camp Adventure with God



**July 15-19, 2024**

**9:00 am—noon**

We welcome children age 4 through 5th grade and invite those older than 6th grade to participate as volunteers with the program. Please register by July 5.

**A week filled with bible stories, games, crafts, and much more!**

*"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."*

*Psalm 56:3*

<https://mtlebanonlutheranchurch.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

## **VBS ITEMS TO BORROW:**

**(for week of July 15-19)**

**Items to be returned must have lender's contact information.**

**PLEASE PLACE THESE ITEMS ON THE STAGE IN THE SOCIAL HALL. FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SIGN.**

- Child-size lawn chairs
- Coolers (small to medium size)
- Fishing pole
- Canoe and oars
- Hammock
- Tent (small one person)
- Xmas trees (9 ft. or less)
- Battery lanterns (any size)

## **VBS Snacks Donations Needed:**

Please help us provide our Vacation Bible School kids with fun, allergy-safe snacks. Snacks should be in individual pre-packaged bags.

**Please check ingredient labels very carefully to make sure they do not include nuts, tree nuts or sesame seeds.** Some examples of allergy-safe snacks include, but are not limited to:

- Rice Crispy Treats
- Goldfish crackers
- Skinny Pop Popcorn
- Quaker Chewy Dipp's Chocolate Granola Bars
- Frito Lay Variety Pack Chip bags
- Nature's Bakery Fig Bars

Many of these products can be purchased in bulk at Aldi's, Costco or Sam's Club, which is good news since **we will need at least 300 snacks!**

We will also need **small cups (9-oz size)**

Please bring snacks to the Social Hall Kitchen, and **label them VBS**. Thank you in advance for your generosity! This helps us keep VBS affordable for families to participate.

Feed the campers, but please don't feed the bears.

*Thank you in advance for your generosity!  
Help keep VBS affordable for families.*

## **VBS ITEMS TO DONATE:**

**PLACE ITEMS IN NARTHEX BOX.**

- Stickers (nature or camping)
- Black cardstock paper
- White cardstock paper
- Battery operated votive candles
- Vellum paper (translucent)

## **VBS Volunteers Needed in Specific Roles:**

**During VBS week, July 15-19, we need:**

- Media Tech Leader (*teen or adult; involves setting up and running projector and sound system each day*)
- Setup/Take-down Traffic Barriers (*before and after VBS each morning*)
- Custodial support
- Assistant in Bible Storytelling (*teen or adult; willingness to put on Bible costumes & engage kids*)
- Puppeteer on *Wed, Thur, Friday* - (*teen or adult; participate in opening and closing drama skits*)

**Prior to VBS week we need:**

- Help with decorating & setup July 2, 5 and 6, anytime between 10:00 am-1:00 pm.
- Last minute setup tasks on July 14, following the late Worship Liturgy.

**After VBS week:**

- Help breakdown set & cleanup, flexible time shifts—please let us know your available dates.

**Note: Teens can earn up to 15 hours of Community Service! Plus, it's a lot of fun!**

**To volunteer: contact**

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

**T in COUNT DOWN TO CAMP FIRELIGHT**

**JULY 15-19, 9 AM – NOON**

**PICK UP A COLORING PAGE EACH WEEK**

**In the Narthex—5 coloring pages**

**COLLECT THEM ALL!**



# Vacation Bible School

Ages: 4 and older

**Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church**

**Monday - Friday, 9:00 - noon**

**July 15-19, 2024**

**Suggested donation: \$10.00/child or \$20/family\***

## REGISTRATION

Family Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Persons authorized to pick up children: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies/Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies/Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies/Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies/Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

My children have my permission to attend & participate in MLULC VBS per Terms on page 2

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help with VBS (adults & teens age 12 & up) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please also sign the back side of this page.**

For registration purposes: Age Group/ Crew: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Scholarships available if needed.*

## Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School

July 15-19, 2024

Registration Form, *Continued from page 1*

### Participation Agreement:

	YES	NO
My children have my permission to attend VBS at MLULC	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
VBS staff are permitted to provide First Aid to my kids if needed	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
My kids have my permission to be photographed for the church slide show & bulletin board:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
I grant permission to take photos/videos of my children and to use and to use these images in church newsletter and website. I understand that photos and videos will not be accompanied by captions or tags that include names or other identifying information.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Please note: We will follow health and safety guidelines and practices of our Church Council.

### Please read and sign below:

Parents/guardians agree not to send their children to VBS if the children are sick or have fever.

LIABILITY RELEASE: In consideration of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church allowing child(ren) listed on this 2-page form to participate in Vacation Bible School activities, I, the undersigned, do hereby release, forever discharge, and agree to hold harmless Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church, its directors, employees, volunteers, and agents from any and all liability, claims or demands for accidental personal injury, sickness or death, as well as property damage and expenses, of any nature whatsoever which may be incurred by the undersigned and the above child(ren) while involved in Vacation Bible School. Furthermore, on behalf of my minor child(ren), I hereby assume all risk of accidental personal injury, sickness, death, damage, and expense as a result of participation in activities involved therein. As well as releasing the child(ren), if necessary, for transportation to and from the Vacation Bible School location, I, the undersigned, do hereby release, forever discharge, and agree to hold harmless Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church, its directors, employees, volunteers, and agents from any and all liability, claims or demands for accidental personal injury in the process of transportation.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## **Food Drive for our Refugee and Immigrant Neighbors**

### **Food will be donated to South Hills Interfaith Movement – S.H.I.M.**

By donating the items below, you can give refugee families a taste of home, help them find comfort in something familiar and ensure they have a nutritious meal.

### **Most needed items for SHIM's refugee neighbors**

Dried beans (kidney beans, chickpeas, black beans, etc.)

Lentils

Rice

Flour

Cooking oil

Sugar

Spices and seasonings (salt, pepper, garlic, ginger, chili powder, turmeric, etc.)

Diapers

### **This Food Drive is a joint project with our Congregation and VBS.**

Please bring food donations to the **Narthex, July 14 - Aug 18**, or the **VBS Giving Market** in the Social Hall, **July 15-19**.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Why this service project now?**

The need for food in our local community is greater than ever now. By providing culturally preferred foods that families eat, you are helping them survive. We are grateful to work with neighbors and agencies who care about our community and the people in it, and who offer immigrant and refugee supports. Together, we can continue to build a strong, thriving community where people of all backgrounds can thrive.

**Thank you for your help!**

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

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35*



# 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







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 myEo offering 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.



# July 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 7 PM Study Group	<b>2</b> 10 am-1pm VBS Seup & Decorating	<b>3</b> 4:00 Farmer's Market	<b>4 Happy 4th of July</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>5</b> 10am-1pm VBS Setup & Decorating	<b>6</b> 10am-1pm VBS Setup & Decorating
<b>7 Pentecost 7</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:15 Council Meeting	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 1:00 Global Links 4:00 Farmer's Market	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Pentecost 8</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship VBS Final Prep-Following Late Worship	<b>15</b> Vacation Bible School 9:00-12:00 	<b>16</b> Vacation Bible School 9:00-12:00 	<b>17</b> Vacation Bible School 9:00-12:00  4:00 Farmer's Market	<b>18</b> Vacation Bible School 9:00-12:00 	<b>19</b> Vacation Bible School 9:00-12:00 	<b>20</b>
<b>21 Pentecost</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:15 Worship & Music 2:00 Daily Bread Meal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4:00 Farmer's Market	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 Pentecost 8</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 4:00 Farmer's Market	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>







**1 Disability Pride Month** Give thanks for the gifts, leadership and abilities of our neighbors and siblings in Christ who live with disabilities — about 42.5 million in our nation. Pray for the work of congregations, synods, ELCA Disability Ministry, the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association, Lutheran Services in America Disability Network, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries' Total Inclusion! initiative, and community organizations to address the inclusion, active participation and full involvement of people with disabilities in the life and leadership of the church and society.

**2** Pray for the needs and ministries of congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and the community organizations that serve with us as we do God's work in the world. Pray for the Spirit to help us support each other through prayer, shared resources, volunteerism and Mission Support.

**3 Thomas, the Apostle** Give thanks and praise to God for the grace embodied in Jesus Christ, which brings purpose to our lives and assures us that God loves us — questions, complexities and all.

**4 Independence Day** Promise God to cherish and not abuse the blessings of liberty, to work for change wherever there is injustice and inequity, and to accompany our global neighbors and companion churches in striving for freedom, justice and voice.

**5** "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!" (Psalm 130:1-2). Lift up your worries and fears to God, trusting that God listens and responds to our lamentations.

**6** Ask God to guide and bless the ELCA's AMMPARO strategy to accompany migrants as the church expands it to respond to humanitarian crises that drive migration and displacement in other areas of the world.

**7** "[Jesus] called the twelve and began to send them out two by two" (Mark 6:7). Give thanks for the companionship, support, encouragement and wisdom we receive from our faith communities and siblings in Christ, which strengthen our ability to share the good news, care for our neighbors in need and inspire hope and peace in the world — together.

**8** Pray that the Spirit will stir enthusiasm, creativity and wisdom in the leaders, volunteers and staff of the church wide organization as they serve youth and adults from congregations across the country during the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

**9** Ask God how we can best provide care, comfort and support to our neighbors and siblings in Christ who grieve and suffer. Pray that, in our words and actions, we might consider how situations and needs differ from person to person.

**10** Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the United Methodist Church, a full communion partner since 2009. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength, resources and encouragement for the work of sharing the gospel, serving our neighbor and growing the church, especially as the denomination moves forward following its vote in favor of LGBTQ inclusion.

**11** There have been over 13,000 gun-related injuries and deaths in our country this year ([gunviolencearchive.org](http://gunviolencearchive.org)), and firearm injuries are now the leading cause of death among children and youth. Pray for an end to the senseless deaths and the trauma, grief, anxiety and anguish that spread through our communities and nation. Ask God to lead us out of hopelessness and inaction so that we will be bold and unwavering in our work and advocacy to end gun violence.

**12** Thank God for 35 years of the ELCA International Leaders Program, which provides leadership development experiences to current and future leaders through scholarships, the International Camp Counselor Program, leadership development programs and building equitable access to education for systemically excluded groups.

**13** Pray for young people of color and those whose primary language is other than English as they gather for the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and for youth living with disabilities as they attend the table event, both of which precede the ELCA Youth Gathering. Pray that these young people — with their adult companions — will grow as wise, faithful and courageous followers of Christ.

**14** Pray that we will listen carefully to God and seek to understand God's ways and commands, which provide guidance for our life and faith and show us how to love and serve our neighbors.

**15** Remember in prayer the residents of New Orleans and give thanks as they open their community and extend their enthusiasm, assistance and hospitality to youth, adults and leaders during the ELCA Youth Gathering and related events. Give thanks for ELCA congregations and ministries in New Orleans that help make the Gathering a faith-strengthening, life-changing experience for everyone.

**16** Pray for youth and young adults participating in the ELCA Youth Gathering and Young Adult Gathering as they explore what it means to be created by God as free, brave, authentic, disruptive disciples — all invaluable parts of our faith and identity in a world of ongoing challenge, crisis and suffering.

**17** Generation Zero-Hunger is a youth-driven fundraising challenge to support the programs of ELCA World Hunger, our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty. Pray for the Spirit to inspire our generosity and compassion for our neighbors as we respond to this challenge to usher in a world without hunger and futures filled with hope.

**18** Pray for our neighbors who suffer and long for peace in places of conflict and war. Pray that we will not grow weary in our concern, support and prayer and that we will not rest until there is peace and healing.

**19** Give thanks for everything that God has revealed and given to us through Jesus Christ that stirs our hope and joy: God's abundant grace and mercy, God's will for our present life and future, and the promise of eternal life in the kingdom of God.

**20** Pray that youth, young adults and adults attending the ELCA Youth Gathering will return home safely, bringing with them enthusiasm for sharing the impact of their faith-building experience and a renewed understanding of the task we share in common — doing God's work in the world.

**21** We are called to do God's work in the world, both individually and with siblings in Christ who encourage, support and inspire us. Give thanks that we are not alone in our baptismal journey of service and that the Spirit gives us diverse gifts that complement one another.

**22** Pray for musicians and leaders gathering for the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians conference at Valparaiso University, Ind., an annual continuing education event to nurture and equip church musicians, pastors and worship leaders.

**23** Praise God and give thanks for the leaders and volunteers who planned and implemented the ELCA Youth Gathering, Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE), the tAble event and the Young Adult Gathering. Give thanks for congregations, community organizations, residents and community leaders in New Orleans who demonstrated hospitality and shared their wisdom and resources to help make the ELCA Youth Gathering experience safe, relevant and impactful.

**24** "*The Lord is my shepherd*" (Psalm 23:1). We may not be familiar with the work of shepherds anymore, but we do know the joy and relief of having God in our lives to guide us, comfort us, restore us and walk with us through darkness and evil. Give thanks and praise to God, our ever-present shepherd!

**25** Remember in prayer young adults nearing the end of their yearlong volunteer service in the Young Adults in Global Mission program. Give thanks for their faith, gifts, witness and commitment to ministry, and pray that the Spirit will prepare them to pursue new opportunities for service and ministry in the church, our communities and the world.

**26** Pray for peace and civility in our nation, for the mending of rifts and ideologies that isolate us and for the diverse gifts, perspectives and life experiences that enrich and inform our life together.

**27** Pray that the companion synod relationships connecting ELCA synods and congregations with Lutheran churches around the world will flourish and will nurture and strengthen these congregations for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources.

**28** Do you see God doing great work with things that may seem small or insignificant to us? Lift up in prayer the things we witness that restore our faith, stir hope and reassure us that God is present and active in our lives, communities and world.

**29** Pray for the Spirit to sustain the faith and energy of staff serving in summer camps and community ministries. Pray that their service experiences will enrich their lives and faith and will equip and inspire them to pursue other service opportunities and vocations.

**30** Ask God to stir within us an enduring spirit of generosity toward others, including generosity toward ministries that touch the lives of our neighbors in need.

**31** Remember in prayer teachers in public and faith-based schools as they experience the rest and renewal of summer break, and pray for those who teach year-round. Ask the Spirit to give them strength, creativity and hope as they educate and inspire children and youth.

## Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

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



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

### 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

### Dr. Christopher Keenan, DMA

Director of Music and Organist

### Mr. Larry Allen

Director of Music and Organist Emeritus

### Mrs. Kris Malia

Parish Secretary

# Looking Ahead... 100th Anniversary—2025 Mount Lebanon United Lutheran Church

