

the Voice parish newsletter

He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison.... –1 Peter 3:18-19

In 1955, an ancient burial site was uncovered 120 miles east of Moscow. Found were a girl estimated to be nine and a boy perhaps thirteen. Their interment has been described as spectacular. They were covered with red ocher and surrounded with rich, unique grave goods that included thousands of ivory beads, bracelets, pins, and pendants. Most stunning is that their remains are dated 28,000 years ago. Let this fact sink in: 28,000 years ago parents were grieving children, laying them to rest in elaborate rituals.

The current world religions, including Christianity, were nonexistent 28,000 years ago, a time span causing many to pause. Christianity is not unaware that people lived and died before Jesus. In 1 Peter 3:18-19, mention is made of Jesus offering heaven to those who died before his time. In the *Apostles' Creed*, we say Jesus descended to the dead, reflecting our belief that Jesus has offered salvation to all. It's not my intention here to ruminate on the afterlives of others, including children who died 28,000 years ago. What I do hope is that by knowing the enormity of time, we will rethink how we treat others. We are passing through life like all who've lived before us. We will be remembered for what we believed; how we lived; whether we loved others or shunned them. Juxtaposing mortality and eternity can be transformative.

Emotions are now running high as election day approaches. Opposing sides see only the worst in others. Presidents, though, come and go. God remains; God abides; God wins, the one God who loves all and who received children into his arms 28,000 years ago. May the contemplation of 28,000 years give us new perspectives, changing how we think; how we treat others. It's an arresting thought that 28,000 years ago people were burying their dead and that 28,000 years from now people may be doing the same.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home. Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame, from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

In Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy

Enjoy these waning summer days. They're gifts from God!



September, 2024

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



MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The 7 Undisputed Letters of Saint Paul

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 16	Romans
SEPTEMBER 23	1 Corinthians
SEPTEMBER 30	2 Corinthians
OCTOBER 7	Galatians
OCTOBER 14	Philippians
OCTOBER 21	1 Thessalonians
OCTOBER 28	Philemon

Only seven of the New Testament letters are universally regarded as compositions of Saint Paul. Led by Pastor Heagy, participants will discuss these seven letters, read key passages from each, discuss the life of Paul, and the issues prompting the sending of the seven letters. All are welcome. Bibles will be provided or bring your own.



Martin Luther loved the Bible and wanted people to study God's word. He's pointing to a Bible in this picture to emphasize its importance for life.

KICK OFF THE FALL BY JOINING US ON MONDAY NIGHTS!

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

SEVEN PSALMS

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will read and discuss seven biblical Psalms, reflecting on their meanings for today and when they were first composed.

10:00 am- 11:00 am

SEPTEMBER 12

Exodus 15:1-21

SEPTEMBER 19

Habakkuk 3

SEPTEMBER 26

1 Samuel 2:1-10

OCTOBER 3

Jonah 2:1-10

OCTOBER 10

2 Samuel 22

OCTOBER 17

Isaiah 38:9-20

OCTOBER 24

Judges 5

All are welcome to attend. Bibles will be provided or bring your own!



Shown above is Jonah inside a big fish (artistic rendition)

Jonah 2 will be read and discussed on October 3. Join us for all the Thursday mornings!

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship of our work life

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. --Colossians 3:17

Martin Luther's most underappreciated theological insight may have been "the priesthood of all believers." Simply put, Luther observed that God calls all Christians – not just pastors – to lives of holiness. Every one of us accomplishes God's holy work, regardless of our occupation, whether employed on a job away from home or working at home for our family.

It's a simple idea, and one that certainly elevates our "job" to a new status, but it can be hard to live out. Here are some tips:

Think *disciple*: You may know about being a disciple in church, but prayerfully imagine how you can be a follower of Jesus at work or home, too!

Think *excellence*: There's satisfaction in doing your best. Knowing that your work is holy can provide not only incentive but also a satisfaction boost.

Think *relationship*: They're not just your co-workers or family members, they're also the neighbors whom Christ commands us to serve and to love as ourselves.

Think *service*: Every workplace holds challenges for your employer, co-workers and customers. Every home has challenges for your family. How can your experience and gifts help?

Think *priest*: You are called to be a holy person 24/7. How does this awareness invite you to change your behavior and attitude toward your occupation?

We spend so much of our lives in our occupations. We bring the light of Christ to our work as holy people of God's reign!

--Robert Blezard

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cena española

Join us for a delightful evening of fellowship and fantastic food at our upcoming *Spanish-Inspired Adult Dinner Event in the Church Social Hall and outdoor courtyard!*

Date: September 8th

Appetizers: 5:00 PM

Dinner: 6:00 PM

Menu:

Appetizer: Charcuterie/Mezze Board

Main Entrée: Paella

Beverages: Sangria & soft drinks provided. Bring your own beverage(s) if you prefer.

Dessert: A traditional Spanish dessert

gluten free & vegetarian options will be available

You can RSVP by any of the following:

Contact the Church office by phone 412-563-0300 or

Email mtleboluth@aol.com

Sign up board in the Narthex

Please RSVP by September 1st.

Come savor the flavors of Spain with us! A free-will donation will be accepted.

We look forward to sharing this special evening with you. ¡Hasta pronto!



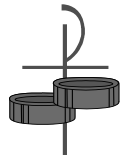
**Wednesday, September 11th
1:00-3:00 pm**

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

If you are interested in volunteering,
please see the sign up sheets
in the Narthex.

Please contact Sara Dougherty at
412-523-1499 or tjdsjd@verizon.net

Congratulations to Peyton Roy
and Ross Opeka who were
united in marriage on Saturday,
August 24th at Nemacolin in
Farmington, Pennsylvania.



We pray God's blessings for this newly
married couple as they begin their lives
together in Christ.



Daily Bread Meal

The Daily Bread meal for September 15th
has been cancelled for this year due to a
scheduling conflict on the North Side. The
next meal is scheduled for November 24th.
Look for more information in the upcoming
Voice Newsletters,

**SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE:
SEPTEMBER, 2024**

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

September 1-Crucifer

8:30 TBD

10:00 Addy Wetzel

September 8-Crucifer

8:30 Easton Darcy

10:00 Sam Wetzel

September 15- Crucifer

8:30 Ewan Keplar

10:00 Chase Lutz

September 22-Crucifer

8:30 Annaleigh Dwulit

10:00 Dylan Solomon

September 29-Crucifer

8:30 Finn Darcy

10:00 Jack O'Brien



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

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

The Word of the Lord

September 1 Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
 Psalm 15
 James 1:17-27
 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 8 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Isaiah 35:4-7a
 Psalm 146
 James 2:1-10, 14-17
 Mark 7:24-37

September 15 Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 116:1-9
 James 3:1-12
 Mark 8:27-38

September 22 Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Jeremiah 11:18-20
 Psalm 54
 James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a
 Mark 9:30-37

September 29 Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Daniel 10:10-14, 12:1-3
 Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22
 Revelation 12:7-12
 Luke 10:17-20

Sunday School Begins—September 8
9:35 am in the Social Hall

Rally Day—September 8
11:00 am in the Social Hall

Catechetical Classes Resume



Catechetical instruction in preparation for the Public Affirmation of Baptism, the rite also known as Confirmation, is scheduled to resume in September. This early notice will hopefully help both students and parents plan for the fall.

Level 1 classes will be on Thursdays from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM beginning September 12.

Level 2 classes will Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 PM, beginning October 16.

Level I classes focus on the Old and New Testaments. An orientation meeting for Level I parents and new students will be held on Monday, September 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance at weekly class sessions, Sunday worship, and Sunday School are requirements. The full set of requirements will be given to students at the first class session. All catechumens will be scheduled to serve at the Altar for worship liturgies. Please note: June 8, 2025 is the date for next year's Confirmation Sunday.

Questions with regard to participation in catechetical instruction should be directed to Pastor Doug Heagy.

The development of the Christian life requires that it be cultivated in all of its dimensions: worship, study, prayer, service, stewardship, and witness.



The 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on October 20 at 9:30 am.
 (in-between worship liturgies)
 Look for more information in the upcoming bulletins.





WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

Great God, our healer, by your power, the Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave hope to the hopeless. Look upon our brothers and sisters with mercy and bless them with your healing Spirit. Bring comfort in the midst of pain, strength to transform weakness and light to illumine darkness. Especially bring healing into the lives of:

Craig Elias; Andy Kelemen; Linda Larkin; Jennifer Meyer; Bill Young and the family of Declan Hicks

Prayer Request

Please pray for my brother, Bill Young, and the entire family of his little grandson Declan Hicks. Our great-nephew was just 5 years old when he was killed in a bounce-house accident in Maryland last month. And Bill has been in the hospital for most of the month treating a rare blood disorder.

We greatly appreciate all the expressions of sympathy and support from the congregation.

~Mary Beth & Alan Trivilino

Cancer Bridges Fund Raiser a Great Success!

The Chamber Music Concert by members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra held in our Sanctuary on August 11 was a resounding success.

The event raised \$2,700 for Cancer Bridges, an organization dedicated to assisting cancer patients and their families. The music making was first class, and the listeners almost filled our sanctuary. Special thanks to Pastor Heagy, Cindy Brown and Sara Dougherty for organizing the reception, ushers, and hospitality for the evening. I dare not try to list all the names for fear of omitting someone, but know that each and every one who assisted is most appreciated. This was a fine event for the organization, and a fine example of outreach done by Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church. Bravi tutti!

Larry Allen
Director of Music and Organist emeritus

COFFEE and FELLOWSHIP



You are invited for Coffee and Fellowship between services on Sunday morning. This an opportunity to renew acquaintances and make new friends. If you attend the first service, stop in the foyer after the service to talk to other parishioners. If you attend the second service, come a few minutes earlier to meet others. Coffee and Fellowship strengthens our community at Mt Lebanon United Lutheran Church. We offer coffee or apple juice as well as some snacks. Different members of the congregation host Coffee and Fellowship each week. It takes only a few minutes to brew the coffee and set up the table. If you can host Coffee and Fellowship, please sign up on the list in the foyer.

Full Choir Begins next Sunday, September 8 at both services. Please join us along with Chris Keenan and our wonderful choir as we begin a new year of angelic hymns and music in celebration of Jesus Christ our Lord.



Mt. Lebanon Farmers' Market

[sponsored by the Lions' Club]
Wednesdays 4:00—7:00 PM

The Farmers' Market operates through October 23rd.

Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi Sunday, October 6th Blessing of Pets at 10:00 in the Social Hall

We will be collecting supplies for Animal Friends Shelter on Sunday, October 6th when we celebrate The Blessing of the Animals. Supplies are distributed to food banks for people who might have to surrender their animals without our help. Supplies also help the sheltered animals at this "non-euthanizing" shelter. Dogs, cats and rabbits are kept and cared for at this shelter until they find homes, no matter how long it takes. Some members of this congregation volunteer their time at Animal Friends.

Supplies needed are:

- small bags of cat and dog food
- canned cat and dog food
- scoopable litter
- new cat toys and dog toys
- cat treats and dog treats

ALL FOOD PRODUCTS MUST BE UNOPENED



ONLINE GIVING

Is now available in association with



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



Rally Day! Sunday School Starts September 8

Join us as we kick off our academic year! Students ages 4 and up—come meet your teachers and classmates. The entire congregation is invited to participate in our Fellowship event to assemble Healthy Snack Bags for Daily Bread Ministries. This is our Day of Service for ELCA Gods' Work/Our Hands Sunday.

Schedule for September 8

8:30 – Early Worship Liturgy

9:35 am – Sunday School Families gather in Social Hall to decorate lunch bags and write blessings.

10:00 – Sunday School Students & Teachers are commissioned at beginning of Late Worship Liturgy

10:15 – Students and Teachers go to Classrooms for Lessons

4:00 pm – **Entire congregation is invited to Social Hall** for a time of fellowship and to assemble the Healthy Snack Bags.

Please see the article in this issue for more details and a list of needed ingredients for the Healthy Snack Bags. Donations may be brought to the Narthex through September 3. See you on Rally Day!



Sunday School Teachers, and Substitutes Needed



Sunday School Teachers & Substitutes Needed:

- Specific Needs: Pre-K/Kindergarten & Elementary teachers & substitutes
- Adults & teens 10th grade and older are eligible
- Teachers rotate to teach a few times a month
- Curriculum is very easy to use
- The kids are a lot of fun!
- Classes meet 10:00 am Sundays
- Contact: Mary Beth at MBTrivilino@verizon.net or call Church office

Youth Group Meeting are Back!

Hello middle and high school church members. We hope you've enjoyed your summer and are off to a great start for this new school year. To kick off youth group for the 24-25 school year, we will be celebrating the beginning of Fall with a badminton tournament and s'mores. We will meet from 4:30-6:30 pm on September 22nd at church.

Contact Julia Nelson at jmnelson26@comcast.net or text to 412-574-5689 to RSVP and with any questions. Hope to see you soon!

Blessing of Backpacks....

On Sunday, September 1 at the 8:30 and 10:00 worship liturgies, our children and youth are invited to a blessing of their backpacks.. By this blessing, we honor God and affirm our children and youth as they begin a new school year.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the September issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by Sunday, September 15th. Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.



Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran
In Person Sunday School Student 2024- 2025 Registration and Information (Please Print)

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs"*
Matthew 19:14

Parents: _____

Address: _____

Family contact email address: _____

Phone Number [s]: _____ cell phone # _____

Child 1: _____ Date of birth: _____

September Grade and School: _____

Allergies / Special Needs: _____

Child 2: _____ Date of birth: _____

September Grade and School: _____

Allergies / Special Needs: _____

Child 3: _____ Date of birth: _____

September Grade and School: _____

Allergies / Special Needs: _____

To whom should child/children be released after Sunday School if parents are not available?

Where/how can you be reached during the Sunday School hour in the event of an emergency?

Please do not send your children to Sunday School if they are sick or have a fever.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Social Ministries and Rally Day Service Project

Healthy Snack Bags for Daily Bread Ministries

The ELCA marks September 8 as “God’s Work/Our Hands Sunday”—a day of service among congregations throughout the country. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.



Our Congregation’s Service Project runs from now through September 8, and it involves Sunday School families and the entire Congregation! We are once again collecting food and bottled water to fill Healthy Snack Bags for our friends at Daily Bread Ministries.

Parishioners are asked to donate food items from the list below that we will use to fill large lunch bags. These are due by September 1.

On Rally Day, September 8:

*Sunday School kids and families will meet in the Social Hall before the first Sunday School class to decorate the lunch bags.

*After the late liturgy (11:15 am), the **entire congregation is invited to the Social Hall for Refreshments** and to help stuff the Healthy Snack Bags and perhaps write a note of encouragement for the bags.

These Healthy Snack Bags will be distributed to our friends at Daily Bread Ministries in September.

Suggested items to donate for our Healthy Snack Bags:

Fruit Snacks—Small packages of chips, cookies
Granola bars—Cheese or peanut butter crackers
(Lance or other brands)
Rice Krispie treats, goldfish, etc

We especially need:

Bottled water
Individually wrapped beef jerky
Individually wrapped mints

The need for food at Daily Bread Ministries is greater than ever. This service project is a way for our Congregation to participate in God’s Work/Our Hands Day of Service and meet the needs our local community.

We are hoping to fill 100+ bags, so please donate what you can.

Please make sure items are individually wrapped, and bring them to the Narthex **now through September 3**. Thank you!

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink” Matthew 25:35*

Vacation Bible School Thanks!

We had an awesome week at VBS Camp Firelight! Forty-one kids had a great time with dramatic Bible stories, creative crafts, fun games, fascinating nature-science class, yummy snacks, and lively music!

This year's service project was to collect specific food items to give our refugee and immigrant neighbors a taste of home. Through this joint food drive with the congregation, we received 250 pounds of food! Many thanks to all who donated, and to Sara Dougherty for organizing the project and delivering the items to the Food Pantry at S.H.I.M.

We were blessed with the help of 50 volunteers who gave their time and talents to help kids learn to trust God in all situations! Many thanks to all these wonderful individuals:

Co-Directors: Mary Beth Trivilino & Melodie Frankovitch.

Music Director: Carol Vogeley, with assistants Quinn Duffy & Ellen Stohner.

Crafts Leader: Jessica Porter, with assistants Normajean Graybill, Liz Hoyson, Olive Skocik, Chihiro Brentzel, Chelsey Campbell, Julie Nichols, and Glen & Grace Reiner.

Science/Nature Teacher: Melodie Frankovitch, with assistant Matthew Campagna.

Bible Storyteller: Jen Kennedy, with assistants Derek Harpst, Prasuna Kharel, & Delaney Graybill

Games Leader: Luke Frankovitch, with Madi Harpst, Nico Provins, & Aaron Rai.

Snacks Leader: Debbie Lutz, with Karen Pfeil & Laura Spickard.

Media/Tech Director: Ashim Rai.

Photographer: Kenna Cercone, with support from Jen Cercone.

Puppeteers: Delaney Grabill & Aaron Rai.

Registration: Matt Frankovitch, with assistants Alan Trivilino and Diane & Larry Datillo.

Office Support: Kris Malia; *Custodial Support:* James Brentzel & Tom Ultsch.

Traffic Safety: Luke Frankovitch, Alan Trivilino & Larry Datillo.

Many thanks to all our **Crew Leaders and Assistants** who served as Counselors at Camp Firelight: Gabriel Provins, Isa Provins, Chase Lutz, Katie Harpst, Claire Bruno; with McKenna Coyle, Ashim Rai, Christian Brownlee, Julia Campagna, Maya Kashlan, Charlotte Nielsen, Quin O'Brien, Finn Darcy, Jaci Harpst, and Madalena Provins.

Special thanks to our *Chief Decorator:* Julia Nelson and her assistants who turned our Social Hall into a wooded wonderland with trees, fireflies and campsites! She was *assisted by* Chihiro Brentzel, Luke Frankovitch, Milo Bucher, Kenna Cercone, Juliette Kenny, Ellen Stohner, Prasuna Kharel, Aaron & Ashim Rai. Thanks also the following *who helped setup/take down tents and/or setup/break-down the set and decorations:* Jeff & John Graybill; Matt & Luke Frankovitch; Alan Trivilino; Jeff, Julia & TJ Nelson; and Ryan, Ashleigh, Dylan, Riley, & Ellie Solomon.

Thanks to *congregational members* for their prayers and contributions of VBS snacks, craft items, decorating supplies, and food pantry donations for our service project.

Special thanks to *Pastor Doug Heagy* for spiritual guidance and for leading us in prayers each day at VBS!

All of these talented people worked together to help kids learn to put their trust in God in all circumstances. Thank you!

~ Melodie Frankovitch & Mary Beth Trivilino

Volunteers Needed

LIBRARY RESTORATION PROJECT



Sign up for a two-hour time slot and a shelf unit to clean. Instructions will be available in the library.

Teams of two are recommended but not required. Wear old clothes. Supplies will be provided.

When completed, **select a book** from the “Library Restoration Project” display in the Foyer Café. Your name will be placed on a bookplate inside the book as a *Thank You* for participating in the **Library Restoration Project.**



NEW FLORIST: **BRONIAK & KRAF**



We have made arrangements with Broniak & Kraf, Bridgeville, to provide our weekly flowers starting September 15. Our previous florist is no longer able to make deliveries to us due to the distance.

Broniak & Kraf is a several-generation family business, in operation for over 50 years, and we look forward to working with them. **The cost is unchanged at \$30 per vase**, and there are dates remaining this year to dedicate flowers. Please check the flower chart in the Narthex.

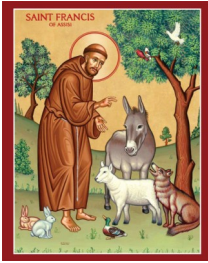
You're Invited...

Your prayers and presence are requested as The Rev. Elizabeth Rheinfrank is installed as pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Perrysville(920 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15229), on Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 10 AM, followed by a light lunch in the Undercroft. Clergy are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red.

Please RSVP for the lunch at stjohnsperrysville@gmail.com or 412-364-6626 by September 14th.



Save these dates!



Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi

Blessing of Pets

Sunday, October 6th

10:00 PM in the Social Hall

As is our tradition at Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran, on the Sunday on or before St. Francis Day we hold a pet blessing.

Please see full article on page 8



Worship Liturgies of Word, Sacrament and Healing

in observance of

The Feast Day of Saint Luke

Evangelist and Physician

Sunday, October 13th at 8:30 and 10:00 AM



The Annual Congregation Meeting

of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

October 20, 2024 / 9:30 AM between the liturgies

This year we will have a hybrid meeting. Members may attend and vote in-person or vote by email in advance of the meeting.

Stay tuned for more details.



Reformation Sunday

October 27th

Bible Presentation to First Graders



Love. Grow. Serve.



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.



A PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY September 2, 2024



Lord, on this Labor Day, we thank You for the many blessings of work. We ask for strength to complete each day. When we are weary we ask for rest. We also ask for Your guidance and hope for everyone seeking employment. We ask that You be with those we never see, but who work tirelessly each day for the good of all of us. Amen

²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:28-30



**REMEMBER 9-11 AND THE FAMILIES OF THE
DECEASED IN YOUR PRAYERS.**

Columbarium-South Chancel Wall

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

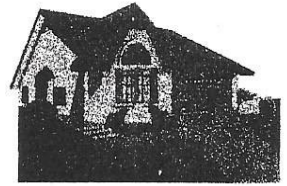
The cost of each niche is \$1,000 for internment of a single individual, and \$1,500 for the internment of two individuals.

Please contact the church office
to indicate your interest.



*The South Chancel Wall
Columbarium was completed
July 2022*

Nurturing Faith in the Home



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

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

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

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

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

7 Goals For Nurturing Faith In The Home

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

WHEN DOES CATECHISM BEGIN?

Reversing the Trend

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

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

Teaching faith includes...

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

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

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

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

With love for Christ and everyone,

Pastor Doug Heagy





SEPTEMBER 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Pentecost 15 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship Blessing of Backpacks	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3	4 4:00 Farmer's Market 7:00 Choir Practice	5	6	7
8 Pentecost 16 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School Begins 11:15 Rally Day-Service Project 5:00 Fall Adult Dinner	9 7:00 pm Catechetics Orientation	10 I	11 4:00 Farmer's Market 7:00 Choir Practice	12 10:00 Bible Study 4:30-5:30 Catechetics Level I	13	14
15 Pentecost 17 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship	16 7:00 Bible Study	17	18 4:00 Farmer's Market 7:00 Choir Practice	19 10:00 Bible Study 4:30-5:30 Catechetics Level I	20	21
22 Pentecost 18 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting	23 7:00 Bible Study	24	25 4:00 Farmer's Market 7:00 Choir Practice	26 10:00 Bible Study 4:30-5:30 Catechetics Level I	27	28
29 Pentecost 19 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Liturgy 8:30 Live Virtual Liturgy 10:00 Sunday School	30 7:00 Bible Study					30





1 "It is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly" (Mark 7:21-22). Recognizing that evil intentions and actions come from the human heart, confess your weakness to God, who is rich in mercy and loves us even in our imperfection.

2 *Labor Day* Recognize and pray for the work people do to sustain their families and benefit their communities and society. Pray that all will receive fair wages, work in safe environments, be renewed through times of sabbath, and experience joy and fulfillment in their labor. Pray for those who seek employment and for the care, support and well-being of people unable to work.

3 *National Suicide Prevention Month* Pray for those who feel lonely, depressed and hopeless, that they will find compassion and spiritual renewal in times of darkness and suffering. Ask the Spirit how we might best respond to our neighbors and siblings in Christ who are struggling.

4 Ask the Spirit to help us be doers and hearers of the word of God, looking beyond our own needs and attending to the needs of our suffering neighbors.

5 Give thanks for the thousands of young people who attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in July and raised nearly \$100,000 for Generation Zero-Hunger, supporting ELCA World Hunger in its work to end hunger and poverty and to transform lives, families and communities around the world.

6 Pray for communities and congregations vulnerable to the hurricanes, that they will be prepared, resilient and ready to serve their neighbors impacted by severe weather. Give thanks for the many ways — immediate and long term — that Lutheran Disaster Response gathers resources to relieve suffering, support recovery and healing, and stir hope.

7 Pray for ELCA campus ministries across the country as they engage students, faculty, staff and others to experience God's abundant grace through worship, study, fellowship, service and pastoral care.

8 *"God's work. Our hands."* *Sunday* On this annual day of service, give thanks for the opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. Give thanks for our partnerships of compassion, service and advocacy with other congregations and ecumenical partners, Lutheran health and human service agencies, and community organizations.

9 "I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long" (Psalm 146:2). Thank God for all we have and for God's loving and merciful presence in our lives.

10 Remember those who deliver food, goods and other resources by truck, merchant ship or train, across the country and around the world. Pray for their safety and well-being, especially when they are separated from family, friends and community. Pray that their loneliness might be eased by the knowledge that we are always connected, as children of God and siblings in Christ, through a faith that has no bounds.

11 Pray for ELCA missionaries and International Women Leaders serving alongside our global companions in the Middle East and North Africa to share the good news of Jesus Christ, advocate for justice and peace, support communities and leaders, and invite all to journey together as children of God.

12 Ask the Spirit to strengthen our faith in God's immeasurable power to heal, renew and create hope where there is tragedy, suffering and despair. Pray that God will equip us to respond to our neighbors in need and to bear hope, healing and love into the world.

13 Remember in prayer young adults using their faith, gifts and passion in the church, the workplace, the military, volunteer organizations and community service agencies.

14 Racism and bias are persistent and perplexing problems that infect our society, church, institutions and systems. Ask God to forgive us when we disparage and separate ourselves from children of God whom we perceive to be different and less valued. Pray for the courage, wisdom and humility to confront our biases and to strive for love, respect, equity and unity.

15 *First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month* Give thanks to God for the gifts, contributions and rich cultural diversity of our Latiné neighbors and siblings in Christ. Pray for the growth and vitality of the ELCA's 147 Latiné ministries as they share the gospel, support rostered and lay leaders, promote inclusivity and diversity, and serve their neighbors. Pray for the Spirit to guide and further the work of the ELCA Latino Ministries Association.

16 "[Jesus] asked [the disciples], 'But who do you say that I am?'" (Mark 8:29). Pray for the Spirit to help us express our faith in Jesus Christ as Son of the living God — our savior, liberator, teacher, healer and true hope for the world.

17 Give thanks for the Christian Education Network of the ELCA, which connects professionals and volunteers and encourages their mutual care and support as they serve in vocations of lifelong faith formation in congregations and other ministries.

18 "[The Lord has] delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling" (Psalm 116:8). Give thanks and praise to God for hearing our pleas, responding, and accompanying us through every difficulty.

19 Pray that we might honor our Creator by treating people with love and mercy, giving thanks for what we have, practicing generosity, managing natural resources responsibly and telling others of God's amazing power and grace.

20 Recognizing that we each have strengths and shortcomings, pray that we will attend to one another's needs, mindful of God's forgiveness and grace that surround us and of our renewal in the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

21 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner since 1997. 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.

22 Pray for a spirit of humility and attentiveness to the needs of our neighbor, a spirit shaped by the example of Jesus Christ and uninterested in personal recognition, reward or praise.

23 Pray for those gathered in Portland, Ore., for the conference offered by the ELCA Stewardship and Generosity team in partnership with the Presbyterian Foundation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Ask God to bless their time together, to strengthen stewardship leaders, to equip them with tools to encourage congregational generosity, and to cultivate new approaches to supporting Christ's mission in the world.

24 Ask God to bless our synod bishops, presiding bishop and secretary as they gather in Chicago for the Conference of Bishops, that they might support and encourage one another and help identify, invite and equip new leaders in the church.

25 Pray that our actions, words and relationships will reflect the love of God, which stirs humility, joy, kindness and generosity.

26 Pray that God will strengthen and guide us in the essential work of ending poverty, hunger and homelessness, here and around the world, for the sake of humanity and to honor God as our creator and source of life.

27 Give thanks that God is our help and strength in every situation, and that our faith will be sustained through the work of the Spirit and the care we receive from our siblings in Christ.

28 "Could it be that we are called for such a time as this?" (*All Creation Sings* 1003). In this time of unrest and uncertainty we may feel that we have nothing of significance to offer. Pray that we will hear and respond to God's call to use our unique gifts, experiences and wisdom to be an active, compassionate and faithful presence in the world.

29 Rejoice and give thanks to God for empowering us to gather our strength and resources as communities of faith, serving our neighbors in need in ways we could never imagine on our own.

30 Pray for the new members of your congregation, that they will feel included in a faith community that responds to their need for spiritual growth, shares in their joys and sorrows, and welcomes their diverse gifts for doing God's work in the world.

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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

Dr. Christopher Keenan, DMA

Director of Music and Organist

Mr. Larry Allen

Director of Music and Organist Emeritus

Mrs. Kris Malia

Parish Secretary



Social Ministries and Rally Day Service Project

Healthy Snack Bags for Daily Bread Ministries

September 8 at 11:15 AM



Fall Adult Dinner

September 8

Appetizers 5:00 pm

Dinner 6:00 pm

Sign up in the Narthex or call the Church Office by September 1



The Annual Congregational Meeting

of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

October 20 at 9:30 AM

Annual Reports will be emailed in advance which members are encouraged to read.

Remember the mission of Christ in your prayers.

This year we will have a hybrid meeting. Members may attend and vote in-person or vote by email in advance of the meeting.

Please note:

At least 2 weeks before the email meeting, church members will receive by email the 2025 council member nominations and the proposed 2025 budget. Check your email box in the coming weeks.