



the Voice parish newsletter

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip...and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." –John 12:20-21

The Germans are coming! Sounds pejorative, but it's true, the Germans are coming! German students and teachers are coming to Mount Lebanon this month. For three decades, Mount Lebanon High School has participated in an exchange program that brings visitors from Germany. For two weeks this month, students and teachers from Dresden, Saxony's capital city, will live with host families in our area. Two families of our church are serving as hosts this year.

Hosting German students and teachers is not the only way our church serves others. Weekly, newly arrived persons from countries throughout the world meet in our church to receive English language instruction. Refugees are also served by our Social Ministry Committee. A supply room in our education wing is filled with clothing and household items to help in their transitions.

The church at its best is always a welcoming place, reflecting the open arms of Jesus. As Jesus was nearing the end of his life, the Gospel of John includes a story about the arrival of Greek persons wishing to see Jesus. They said to the disciple Philip, "We wish to see Jesus." Philip relayed their message to Andrew and they both went and told Jesus of the Greeks' desire to meet him.

Jesus did not die for the sins of some, but for the sins of all. In worship, we sing, "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us." May the host families in our congregation this month, may the weekly English language instruction provided in our church, may the refugee work of our Social Ministry Committee remind us of the open arms of Jesus. His arms were extended on a cross, but he was not defeated in death. While some at Calvary saw the crucifixion as defeat, by faith we see atonement being effectuated for the entire world.

The world finds a welcome in our church each week. This month, two families are opening their homes to visitors from Europe. The love of Christ urges us on in this way of self-giving. Let us be steadfast in this way of faith, which is our witness to the world of the one God who loves all. God is love and Christ is God's love incarnate.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy

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



October, 2024

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The 7 Undisputed Letters of Saint Paul

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

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 continue to discuss the seven biblical Psalms, reflecting on their meanings for today and when they were first composed.

10:00 am- 11:00 am

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



Celebrate the miracle of harvest

October is the traditional harvest month for the Northern Hemisphere. We delight that summer produce is still available even as the fall crops are arriving fresh from the farms. It's truly a miracle – one that we too often take for granted, just as we take our food supply for granted.

This fall, spend some time pondering and celebrating the wonder of the harvest and the creative forces that God put in place to make our abundant food supply possible. While celebrating harvest, learn about threats and concerns facing farmers in our age of climate change. Celebrating and learning are appropriate tasks we take on as stewards of our earth and humanity's food supply.

We rightly honor the farmers who diligently plant, cultivate and harvest our fruits and vegetables, but we remember that they don't create the plant life that bears produce. No, it's God who creates all life. Farmers do the important work of optimizing their growth by ensuring the good soil, water and nutrients that plants need, but God is the miracle maker.

We can also think of the miracle of seasons that provide the rhythm for spring's seedtime, summer's flourishing, fall's harvest and winter's rest. Seasons, of course, were created by God, who tilted the earth 23.5 degrees in its orbit around the sun.

This fall, as you enjoy fresh produce from your local farm stand or supermarket, meditate on the miracle of plants, seasons, harvest, and abundant food. Work to help ensure the supply of delicious, nutritious food for generations to come.

--*Robert Blezard*

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**We are starting to plan...Mark
your calendars now!**



**Advent Pageant Rehearsal and
Performance Dates:**

Sunday School rehearsals: November 17 and 24,
December 8

Saturday Rehearsal: December 7

All rehearsals 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Advent Pageant Performance: Sunday,
December 8, after late liturgy

**More details in the November and
December VOICE newsletters.**

A Very Special Thank-You...

Our Pre-K/Kindergarten Classroom and Nursery are now reopened after our restoration project. Many thanks to all who helped make this happen: Don Snyder, Alan Trivilino and Tom Ultsch for moving furniture and cleaning; and Cindy Brown, Maggie Frazier, Cynthia Nellis, and Mary Beth Trivilino for cleaning toys. It is a joy to welcome the little children back into these bright and cheery places.

"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



**Annual Congregational Meeting
October 20, 2024
9:30 AM**



**SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE:
OCTOBER, 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

October 6-Crucifer

8:30 Henry Keplar

10:00 Luke Frankovitch

October 13- Crucifer

8:30 Easton Darcy

10:00 Quin O'Brien

October 20-Crucifer

8:30 Isla Gentzel

10:00 Nico Provins

October 27—Reformation Crucifer

8:30 Max Bruno

10:00 Xavier Graybill



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 You Tube channel

The Word of the Lord

- October 6 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Feast of St. Francis/ Pet Blessing
Genesis 2:18-24
Psalm 8
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16
- October 13 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31
- October 20 Festival of Saint Luke
Isaiah 53:4-12
Psalm 91:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45
- October 27 Reformation Sunday
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

Sunday School at 10:00

*Remember the Sabbath Day
to keep it Holy!*

Catechetical Classes

Catechetical instruction in preparation for the Public Affirmation of Baptism, the rite also known as Confirmation continues throughout October

Level 1 classes Tuesdays 3:30- 4:30 pm

Level 2 classes Wednesdays 4:00-5:00 pm

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 1, 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.

GLOBAL LINKS
Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

Global Links scheduled for Wednesday, October 9 **has been cancelled** due to a scheduling conflict.

The next Global Links will be on
Wednesday, November 6 1:00-3:00 pm
Please contact Sara Dougherty at 412-523-1499
or tjdsjd@verizon.net if any questions.

Congregational Security Training originally scheduled for October 5 has been postponed to a later date, to be advised.

Hunger never takes a break...

We are currently donating goods to the **Dormont Free Pantry**, located at 1444 Hillsdale Ave. in the bottom floor of the Dormont Municipal Building. Goods are still being collected in the coat closet located in the Narthex, and will be transported to the facility on a monthly basis.





ONLINE GIVING

Is now available in association with

 myEoffering

www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

WHAT IS myEoffering?

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

WHY SHOULD I USE myEoffering?

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

HOW DOES IT HELP?

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

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

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



SCAN THIS
CODE WITH
YOUR MOBILE
DEVICE NOW





WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

God, our Father, you know that we, your children, live in a fallen creation midst danger and sickness. We are often surrounded by darkness and the shadow of fear. And yet we have no reason to falter, for we trust that your Fatherly care cradles us and keeps us safe. With Angelic attention, you keep watch of our bodily temples with winged wonder. With the splendor of Your shelter, bring healing into the lives of:

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

*NOTE: Please contact the church office if there are any changes for the prayer list. Names will remain on the prayer list for **one month**. If a person is to remain on the prayer list or to be added, just call the church office and let us know.*

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the November issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by **Sunday, October 13th**. Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.

Fourth Quarter Editions *Christ in Our Home*, our congregational family's daily devotional, will be available in the Narthex. You are invited to take a copy for personal use and encouraged to use it daily in your meditative life.



Mt. Lebanon Farmers' Market

[sponsored by the Lions' Club]
Wednesdays 3:30—6:30 PM
The Farmers' Market operates through October 30th.

A Note from the Treasurer:

For many members, the e-offering platform has been a useful tool and we thank you for using it. This is a reminder that if you use your bank account directly, the fee is 30 cents. If you use a credit card, the fee is 3.25%. Please use the bank account direct debit if at all possible.



Sunday, October 6

Feast of St. Francis

Pet Blessing observed at 10:00 am

Social Hall

Sunday, October 13

Saint Luke, observed both liturgies

Liturgies of Word, Sacrament and Healing

Annual Meeting October 20

Hybrid Meeting-Vote In-Person or by Email

Reformation Sunday - October 27

Bible Presentation at 10:00 Liturgy



You're Invited...To the Sunday Morning Fellowship

Each Sunday worshippers have the opportunity to greet one another and welcome visitors at our:

Sunday Morning Fellowship in the Foyer.

Join us in between the early and late Liturgies to share greetings and conversations with friends and visitors. Refreshments are available for all. The Sunday Morning Fellowship also provides opportunities to volunteer:

- Volunteer to set up and clean the Fellowship refreshments table. It's easy to do and a member of the Hospitality Committee will show you how. Also, written instructions are available.
- Provide sweet (or healthy) treats for all to enjoy. (Gluten free and nut free treats are also welcomed)
- If you'd like to help you can sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office, or contact the church office.

Welcome to the Lord's Family!



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered during the 10:00 liturgy on

Sunday, September 29, 2024.

We rejoice with the family of

Kendall Layne Dubrosky.

Kendall is the daughter of Dalton & Alison Dubrosky, and was born April 30, 2024.

**Sealed by the Holy spirit and marked
with the Cross of Christ forever,
may Kendall know God's love,
sense the Father's purpose for her
and mature into a disciple of our Lord Jesus.**

The Annual Congregational Meeting
of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church
OCTOBER 20, 2024
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 again 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

Parents of College Student

Hi families!

I'm Julia Nelson, the Youth Group Leader. We're organizing a little College Care package to send to your college graduate. We would love to have their school address so we could send them a note and some small treats to let them know their church family is thinking of them. If your child has decided not to go to the college route now, that is fine, we would still like to send them a package for the same reason. Let us know their address and if there are any allergies we need to know about. Send address's to mtleboluth@aol.com Thank you.



Daily Bread Meal...



A traditional Thanksgiving menu is being planned for the next Daily Bread Meal on November 24, 2024. Watch for future announcements for more details. Monetary donations are now being accepted. Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex beginning November. A special thank you to all our volunteers and donors who support this vital ministry and in serving those in need.

Bibles for First Graders & New Students

Our First Graders will be presented with their very own Bibles on Reformation Sunday, October 27th at the beginning of the 10:00 Liturgy. If you have an older child who has not yet received a Bible, please contact the church office as soon as possible so that we may present one to them as well.

Library Restoration Project Update

All bookshelves are now cleaned!

Thanks to our volunteers for their hard work!



Announcement for Library reopening date coming soon!



A Special Note To Share....



Rally Day Thanks!

We kicked off our 2024/25 academic year on Rally Day, September 8. It was wonderful to see everyone!

Many thanks to our Sunday School Teachers, Assistants and Education volunteers! See full list below. Thanks to our Property and Education Volunteers for sprucing up our classrooms and Education wing. Its' not too late to register your kids for Sunday School.

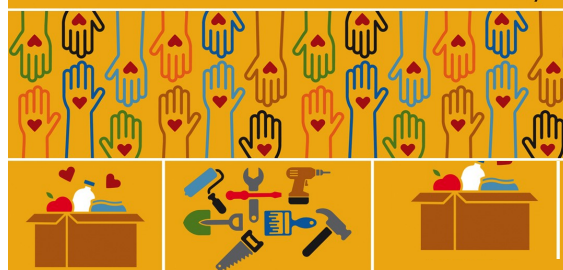
We have classes for Pre K/K through 8th grade. We are off to a great start, so join us Sunday mornings at 10:00.

Pick up a registrations form located in the Narthex, or call the Church office.

Rally Day/ELCA "God's Work, Our Hands" Social Ministry Project

Thank you to all in our congregational family who came out to participate in our Rally Day service project. ELCA congregations across the country participated in a day of Social Ministry through the "Gods Work, Our Hands" campaign. Our church created 150 healthy snack bags that were distributed to our friends at Daily Bread Ministries on the Northside. These bags help to fill hunger gaps for the homeless community. Thanks also to all who made food contributions and to all the children who beautifully decorated the snack bags.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



Partners with Parents in Christian Education:

Pre-K/Kindergarten (*ages 4-6*) – Teachers & Substitutes: Claire Bruno, Milo Bucher, Rylie Solomon

Elementary (*1st-4th grades*) – Teachers and Substitutes: Julie Nichols, Jen Harlacher, Jessica Porter, Lizzy Koval, Andrea Croom, Julia Nelson, Travis Timmons

Middle Grades (*5th-8th grades*) – Mary Beth Trivilino (*Sunday School Director*)

High School Coffee Hour– Julia Nelson

Kids Choir – Carol Vogeley & Barb Heagy

Youth Service Projects – Debbie Hazlett

Catechetics Instruction – Pastor Heagy, with Mary Beth Trivilino and Stacey Tubbs

Cradle Roll -- Normajean Graybill

Education Bulletin Board – Cindy Zuch

First Communion Instruction & Adult Bible Studies -- Pastor Heagy

Church Librarian & Educational Ministries Chairperson – Melodie Frankovitch

--Educational Ministries

Educational Ministries reach, teach, and nurture all of God's people as we equip them to be disciples of Christ for the Glory of God.

What Lutherans Believe about Christian Education

Lutherans believe that Christian Education:

- guides and supports the whole people of God through a lifelong process of forming faith in Jesus Christ;
- equips believers to proclaim God's grace revealed in Jesus Christ for all people;
- helps individuals to live faithfully in relationships with God, one another and all of creation;
- is rooted in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions that have shaped our faith and continue to be passed from generation to generation.

What Lutherans Believe about the Bible

- The words of the Bible point us to the Word incarnate, Jesus Christ.
- When we read the Bible, we do more than *learn* about God—we *meet* God!
- God has given us the Bible: Psalm 119:105; Luke 11:28, Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:15
- The Bible alone is the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged.
- God speaks to us through the Bible so that we may believe *in* Jesus Christ as Lord.

It all Began at Baptism

By the waters of Holy Baptism we are claimed as God's own and brought into a new community.

Parents have been given the privilege of primary care for God's gift of their children. In Baptism parents agree to teach and model for their children a faith based on Scripture, the Apostle's Creed, the Ten Commandments, worship attendance, and to provide for their instruction in the Christian faith.

Teachers in our ministry of Christian Education partner with parents to nurture an increase in understanding God's boundless love, acceptance and forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

Youth Service Projects

As Christians, we are called to be Jesus' disciples in the world. We practice discipleship through prayer, worship, Bible reading, sharing time & talents, and serving others. *We do these things in Christian love, and understand that they are not requirements to receive the gift of God's grace.*

We hope that in serving others we share our love for God and our neighbors, and that these experiences will provide opportunities to meet friends, learn and grow in our spiritual lives. Youth Service Projects will be coordinated with the Social Ministries Committee, Sunday School program and Catechetics classes. Look for project dates in *the Voice*, bulletin and Church web site.

***"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

Annual Thanksgiving Outreach Project

Our Congregation will once again collect nonperishable food and Giant Eagle Gift Cards for Thanksgiving donations to those in need. Thanksgiving “baskets” will be assembled on Sunday, November 3 (see below). As in past years, we will provide to families and individuals using St. Michael’s Food Pantry. This year we are excited to also provide to our local families in need through the Dormont Free Pantry*.

We are asking for everyone’s support by purchasing food and / or Giant Eagle gift cards and attending the assembly event on November 3rd.

Please bring your donations to **The Giving Market** in the Narthex by **Sunday, Oct. 27**. Items we need:

CANS: vegetables, fruits, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes/yams, pie filling, gravy⁺

BOXES: cornbread, mashed potatoes, stuffing, rice mixes, dessert mixes (cakes, pie crust, pudding, etc.)

ENVELOPES or CANS: gravy⁺

Giant Eagle gift cards (prefer \$10. to \$20. range)

⁺ Please do not donate gravy / food in glass jars due to risks associated with broken glass. Thank you!

Thanksgiving Craft kits will be available at **The Giving Market** to take and make at home. Please return completed crafts by **Sunday, Oct. 27**.

The entire Congregation is invited help assemble the Thanksgiving “Baskets” on **Sunday, Nov. 3 at 10:35am in the Social Hall** (after the All Saints worship service that begins at 9:30). Light refreshments and Fellowship!

Please contact Deb Hazlett drhazlett@verizon.net if questions. Thank you for your generous support!

* **Dormont Free Pantry**, located at 1444 Hillsdale Avenue (basement of the Dormont Municipal Building) is a project of the Dormont Community Development Corp. This project is entirely run by volunteers, and serves anyone in need of food. The Pantry is open 4 times/month: 1st & 3rd Wed. 6-7pm and 2nd & 4th Sun. 2-3pm. They accept shopping appointments and deliveries on a limited basis. Fresh produce is delivered once a month. Weekly donations from Shop n Save (fresh bread products) and Potomac Bakery (pastries and donuts).

Reformation Sunday October 27



Let’s celebrate: For Lutherans and many other Protestants in America, the last Sunday in October is celebrated as Reformation Sunday. Reformation Sunday honors Martin Luther’s bold action on October 31st, 1517. On that date Luther posted his statement of faith, known as the 95 Theses, on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This was the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Reformation was first celebrated on varied dates. After the Thirty Years’ War, in 1667 John George II, Elector of Saxony, ordered a Reformation Festival to be celebrated on October 31st. In modern times, the observance was transferred to the nearest Sunday before or after October 29.

Psalm 46, appointed for the day is the basis for Luther’s most famous hymn *Ein feste Burg is unser Gott* [A Mighty Fortress is Our God]. Join us in worship on October 27th as we remember Martin Luther and celebrate Reformation Sunday.

Castle Church -1517
Wittenberg, Germany



OCTOBER YOUTH GROUP MEETING

Come join us on Sunday, October 13th at 12:00-2:30 pm. The agenda has yet to be determined. Look in future church announcements for more information.





Worship Liturgies of Word, Sacrament and Healing

in observance of

The Feast Day of Saint Luke

Evangelist and Physician

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

*Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of
The church to pray over him And anoint him with oil
In the name of the Lord."*

James 5:14

Liturgies of healing, a practice begun in our congregation in 1986, will be led again on Sunday, October 16, in observance of the Feast Day of Saint Luke. **Both Sunday morning liturgies will emphasize healing on this day.**

The liturgy of healing is based on the ministry of Christ, the nature and call of the Church, our Lutheran heritage, and a deep desire to touch more deeply the lives of those in our congregational family, community, and nation who are hurting and in need of healing.

Included in these liturgies are hymns, psalms, Biblical readings, a brief homily and prayers, including a remembrance of those who suffer; those recovering from sickness [whether it be of heart, mind or body]; those who are addicted; those who must face decisions about appropriate treatment and those who are caregivers.

Participants are those who desire healing in any form, those who wish to intercede on another's behalf, and those who desire to be a part of the Church's healing community in the world.

So that each worshiper might understand more fully the ministry of our Lord and His Church in healing, this article will provide additional biblical perspectives on healing.

Jesus and Healing

Healing works occupied a great part of our Lord's activities in the three years of His public ministry. Whenever Jesus preached the good news, He also healed the sick: "And where he came ... they laid the sick ... and besought him ... and as many as He touched were made well ..." [Saint Mark 6:56]

Jesus' Disciples and Healing

Jesus said, "He who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father" [Saint John 14:12] and commanded them specifically to preach and "heal the sick" [Saint Matthew 10:7].

Healing and Early Christians

The first Christians followed the works of Jesus and prayed that the works of God might be revealed. Besides the healings in Jerusalem, the healing work of Philip in Samaria [Acts 8:5-8] and Paul in Ephesus and on the island of Malta are noted [Acts 19:9-12; 28:9].

Healing and the Church

The gift of healing is much different from other gifts of the Spirit mentioned in the New Testament [among them prophesy, preaching, teaching, administration, hospitality, and generosity].

The New Testament does not speak of a special gift by the Lord to an individual, but the gift of healing as a gift which the church may use and administer through its representative.

In other words, the gift of healing is not given to one man or woman, but to the Church!

Prayer and Healing

The primary emphasis is on the prayer of faith. It will give the sick the help needed; that is, the help God wants to provide.

The Laying on of Hands

The laying on of hands [incorporated into the Healing Service for those who desire] is noted in both the Old and New Testaments.

Jacob is described as blessings the sons of Joseph by the laying on of hands in Genesis 48. And according to the command of the Lord, Moses put his hand on Joshua. Jesus often used the laying on of hands when he healed the sick [see St. Mark 1:41-2, St. Luke 5:13, St. Matthew 9:29, and St. John 9:6, for examples].

Jesus also told the believers to use the laying on of hands when they healed the sick. "And these signs will accompany those who believe; in my name they will cast out demons ... they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." [St. Mark 17:17-18].

It should also be noted that in the evangelical church, we also use the laying on of hands at baptism, absolution, confirmation, and ordination.

Anointing with Oil

Anointing with oil may be compared to the visible means Jesus often used to evidence the accomplishment of healing, which might not be visible.

One must remember however, that the *outward* means, such as anointing with oil, is *not necessary* for healing. However, James 5:14 clearly states "Let him call the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."

In the liturgy of healing, those who desire *may* receive anointing with oil by the tracing of the sign of the Cross on the forehead.

Healing and Ritual Forms

There is no prescribed ritual or exact formula which must be followed in order to receive the gift of healing. However, New Testament writings do provide for the centrality of faith and prayer, with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. We follow the format prescribed in the *Occasional Services* accompaniment to the book of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

You should remember

- ♦ **Participation** is completely voluntary.
- ♦ **Requests for prayer** for specific individuals not able to be present should be made to the Pastor in advance. [NOTE: permission from the individual must be obtained.]
- ♦ **You may invite family and friends** to the Feast Day of Saint Luke.
- ♦ **Our liturgy of healing does not replace** the need for everyone to keep regular appointments with medical doctors.



All Saints' Sunday Sunday, November 3rd

On All Saint's Sunday, it is our tradition to observe one of the liturgical treasures of the historic church. **We will have ONE liturgy on Sunday, November 3, at 9:30 AM. During this liturgy, prayers will be made and candles will be lit to remember by name those who've died *since the last All Saints' Day (whether or not they were members of our congregational family)*.** [Note: Nov. 1 is the actual day of All Saints] Also, we will remember those who gave their lives in service to our country.

If you have experienced the death of a family member or friend since last All Saints' Day and wish to have them remembered on this All Saints' Sunday, please use the form below and submit it to the Church Office no later than Monday, October 21st.

Remembering before our Heavenly Father those of His children who have completed their lives on earth and who now share in the treasures of His eternal and glorious Kingdom.

All Saints' Sunday Liturgy November 3/ 9:30 AM

Please remember :
[please print]

Name _____

Died _____

Name _____

Died _____

Submitted
by _____

Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi

Sunday, October 3rd- Blessing of Pets at 10:00 in the Social Hall

We will be collecting supplies for Animal Friends Shelter on Sunday, October 3rd 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



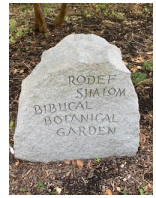
NEW FLORIST: BRONIAK & KRAF



We have made arrangements with Broniak & Kraf, Bridgeville, to provide our weekly flowers starting next week, 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.

A Visit to the Pittsburgh Biblical Botanical Garden



Members of the Spring Thursday Morning Book Study Group read and discussed the book titled **Ark Encounter: The Making of a Creationist Theme Park** by James S. Bielo. In the second chapter called *Materializing the Bible*, Bielo mentions Pittsburgh's **Rodef Shalom Biblical Botanical Garden**. The intent of this garden, according to its website, is to "enter the Holy Land, a replica of ancient Israel." According to Bielo, "Biblical gardens aim to immerse visitors in the natural world of scripture."

On our September 4th visit to **Rodef Shalom Biblical Botanical Garden** (located on Fifth Avenue in Oakland), we experienced "the Holy Land-Ancient Israel, in a setting of a cascading waterfall, a desert, a bubbling stream, the Jordan, which meanders through the garden..." (Bielo, p. 42).

Although our visit was on a very warm day, seeing the water elements in the garden helped to cool us, at least in our thoughts! Our docent was happy to answer any questions we had. We learned that ours was the last tour of the summer. Some plants, we were told will weather the colder months while others planted in pots are taken inside to be brought out next season. This field trip deepened our appreciation for the meaning of biblical gardens and the purpose they serve.

A copy of the **Ark Encounter: The Making of a Creationist Theme Park** is available in the church library.



Pastor's Summer 2024 Vacation Reading

Introduction to Anthropology

Jennifer Hasty; David G. Lewis; Marjorie M. Snipes / Rice University (OpenStax) / 2022
A 20-chapter undergraduate textbook.

Biological Anthropology: Concepts & Connections

Agustin Fuentes / McGraw Hill / 2012
An 11-chapter undergraduate textbook.

Evolving God: A Provocative View on the Origins of Religion

Barbara J. King / University of Chicago Press / 2007
Includes interesting archaeological findings, but also idle speculations.

Debt: The First 5000 Years

David Graeber / Melvin House / 2014
Graeber was a brilliant, controversial scholar at Yale, who was terminated but perhaps unfairly. He was a founder of the Occupy Wall Street movement and died at 59 while vacationing in Italy.

Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology

Laura M. Ahearn / Wiley Blackwell / 2021
Formerly a tenured professor at Rutgers, Ahearn currently is a Senior Learning Advisor at Social Impact, a global development management consulting firm in Washington, D.C.

The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail

Jason De Leon / University of California Press / 2015
A gripping anthropological study. De Leon journeys with migrants from Central America and Mexico through the Sonoran Desert of Arizona.

The Historian & the Believer: The Morality of Historical Knowledge and Christian Belief

Van A. Harvey / University of Illinois Press / 1966; 1996
Harvey poses the question: Is it possible to be both a historian and a Christian? He was a Professor of Religious Studies at Stanford from 1978 to 1996.

Gods And Men: The Origins of Western Culture

Henry Bamford Parkes / New York: Alfred A. Knopf / 1959
An old, classic survey of Western Culture. Bamford Parkes was born in Sheffield, England, but spent his career in America, teaching at New York University.

American Afterlives: Reinventing Death in the 21st Century

Shannon Lee Dawdy / Princeton University Press / 2021
A study of the changing face of funeral practices and spirituality in the United States.

Wabi Sabi Simple: Create beauty; Value Imperfection; Live Deeply

Richard R. Powell / Adams Media / 2005
Best of the summer! Wabi Sabi is an ancient Japanese aesthetic emphasizing simplicity.

The Origin and Goal of History

Karl Jaspers / Routledge Classics / 1949; 1953; 2021
Jaspers presents his theory of an 'Axial Age' running from the 8th to the 3rd century BCE.



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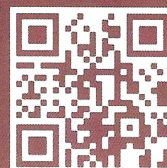
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Lord,
teach
us to
pray.

Luke 11: 1



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.



OCTOBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 3:30 Catechetics 1	2 3:30 Farmers Market 4:00 Catechetics 2 7:00 Choir	3 10:00 Bible Study	4	5
6 Feast of St. Francis 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Pet Blessing Giving Market Opens	7 7:00 Bible Study	8 3:30 Catechetics 1	9 3:30 Farmers Market 4:00 Catechetics 2 7:00 Choir	10 10:00 Bible Study	11	12
13 Feast of St. Luke 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Sunday School	14 7:00 Bible Study	15 3:30 Catechetics 1	16 3:30 Farmers Market 4:00 Catechetics 2 7:00 Choir	17 10:00 Bible Study	18	19
20 Pentecost 22 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:30 Annual Congregation Mtg 10:00 Sunday School	21 7:00 Bible Study	22 3:30 Catechetics 1	23 3:30 Farmers Market 4:00 Catechetics 2 7:00 Choir	24 10:00 Bible Study	25	26
27 Reformation Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour in Library 10:00 Sunday School Giving Market Closes	28 7:00 Bible Study	29 3:30 Catechetics 1	31 3:30 Farmers Market 4:00 Catechetics 2 7:00 Choir			



1 International Day of Older Persons Remember in prayer older adults, who bring vitality and diverse gifts to communities and congregations; give thanks for their faith, wisdom, generosity and life experiences. Pray for those who live in nursing homes, facilities for memory care and assisted living, and continuing care retirement communities, that they will be valued and respected and will receive skilled care.

2 “Yours the soil that holds the seed, you give warmth and moisture, too. Sprouting blossoms, crops and buds, trees and plants: the season’s signs that you make all things new” (*With One Voice* 727). Greet this new day with gratitude to God for the blessings of autumn — fall harvests, the beauty of changing seasons and other signs of God’s ceaseless creativity.

3 Give thanks for the 13 new ELCA missionaries who have begun their work alongside global partners in eight countries, serving as teachers, pastors, pastoral interns, program coordinators and more.

4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church (1181-1226) Give thanks and praise to God for saints who have gone before us and saints still in our midst, who teach and inspire us to be humble, generous, grateful and attentive children of God.

5 We are nourished and sustained by countless resources in creation — all gifts from God, entrusted to our care. Give thanks for the gift of water, without which life cannot exist or flourish. Pray that we will exercise discipline, responsibility and generosity in how we use water, and that we will work to assure the availability of clean water for all people, everywhere.

6 Pray for the children of your congregation and give thanks that God has entrusted to us the opportunity and responsibility to nurture their faith and gifts and to surround them with care and grace.

7 Remember in prayer girls, women and people of other gender identities and expressions who suffer domestic violence. Pray that they will find care and safe shelter that support their recovery from physical, emotional and spiritual trauma. Give thanks for the work and resources available to us through the ELCA Gender Justice and Women’s Empowerment program.

8 Ask the Spirit for guidance, wisdom and creativity as we work to grow the church, not for the sake of numbers but to spread the message of God’s love and mercy for humanity and to draw upon the gifts of the many to love and serve our neighbors, here and around the world.

9 Pray for national leaders, diplomats, mediators and organizations working to achieve ceasefires, peace and recovery in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Sudan and other regions. Ask God to make us diligent bearers of hope, peace and justice in the world.

10 Remember in prayer refugees, immigrants and asylum-seekers who are displaced by economic and climate crises and by conflict and persecution. Ask God to protect them as they seek safe, welcoming places where they can settle and rebuild their lives.

11 “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?” (Psalm 8:3-4). Give thanks and praise to God, who showers love and attention on us no matter how complicated our lives are or how insignificant we feel.

12 Pray that we might discern and avoid the false teaching of Christian nationalism, which divides us and uses Christ’s name to place us above others, claiming privilege and God’s favor. Ask the Spirit to stir in us a desire and commitment to love, uplift and serve our neighbors — without bias.

13 Ask God to help us keep our priorities straight, that we might share the good news of Jesus Christ and trust in the promise of eternal life.

14 Indigenous Peoples’ Day “We join states, cities and towns across the country to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day in place of Columbus Day and honor the people whose lands we walk, whose Indigenous voices have always been spoken here and who share their gifts and contributions throughout our society” (Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Indigenous Peoples’ Day statement). Pray that, in our relations with Indigenous neighbors and children of God, we will not waver in our commitment to repentance, reconciliation, healing and unity.

15 “Christ has no body now but mine. He prays in me, works in me, looks through my eyes, speaks through my words, works through my hands, walks with my feet and loves with my heart” (St. Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582). Pray for God to work through every aspect of our life that we might give witness to God’s boundless love and mercy.

16 World Food Day The theme for World Food Day 2024 is “Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future.” Pray that all people will have adequate access to food that is safe and healthy. Give thanks for the work and advocacy of ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response and partner organizations to address the causes of hunger and improve food security.

17 “The Bible is a remarkable fountain: The more one draws and drinks of it, the more it stimulates thirst” (Martin Luther, 1483-1546). Let us resolve to spend more time studying and discussing Scripture so that we might grow in our understanding of God and connect our faith and the gospel with daily life.

18 The message of the Old Testament prophet Micah is crucial for our world today: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8). Pray that we will humble ourselves and serve our neighbors who suffer poverty, hunger and exclusion.

19 Lift up in prayer youth and family ministry leaders who nurture the faith of young people, reassure them of God’s presence and grace, and affirm their value as members of our faith communities. Give thanks for the work, resources and support of ELCA Youth Ministry, the ELCA Youth Gathering and the ELCA Youth Ministry Network.

20 Ask the Spirit to deepen our understanding of our identity and purpose as baptized children of God, called and equipped to live with gratitude and joy, to share the life-giving news of Jesus Christ and to work for justice and peace.

21 Give thanks and praise to our Creator, who is the source of bountiful fall harvests and sustains us in body and spirit.

22 Pray for an end to gun-related deaths and injuries and to the trauma, grief, anxiety and anguish they spread through our communities and nation. Ask God to help us honor the gift of life and the well-being of all people through bold advocacy to reduce gun violence.

23 Pray for ministries and organizations that help us welcome, resettle and accompany immigrants, asylum-seekers and refugees with dignity and hope, including Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA World Hunger, AMMPARO Migrant Ministry, Global Refuge and Lutheran Services in America.

24 “When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them” (Psalm 91:15). God is our ever-present refuge and fortress. Let our prayers and songs proclaim unceasing thanks and praise to God!

25 Pray for the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association, which supports the 1,300 ELCA congregations and 17,000 staff offering weekday schools and early childhood education programs.

26 Reflect on the people around you who might hunger for a friendly word or some indication that they are loved and not forgotten. Include them in your prayers and reach out to them.

27 Reformation Sunday Praise God for being patient with us through the challenges and changes of being the church and discerning God’s truth.

28 Pray that the Spirit will work through the traditions, rites and practices of the church, which, evolving over time and from generation to generation, affirm God’s saving grace and inspire us to share it.

29 Lament that we sin and fall short of the glory and expectations of God, then shout prayers of thanksgiving and joy that we are forgiven, freed and saved by the gift of God’s grace.

30 Throughout history God has acted with steadfast love, forgiveness and concern for humankind. Alleluia, thanks be to God!

31 Reformation Day Give thanks for the legacy of Martin Luther and other reformers who demanded that the theology and practices of the church be faithful to God’s word and the good news of Jesus Christ. Pray that we will never stop reflecting on Scripture or the gospel message, and that our ministries and faith communities might best respond to their call to 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

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



The Annual Congregational Meeting

of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church



OCTOBER 20, 2024
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 again 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.