

the Voice parish newsletter

Thanks be to God for our 100th Year!



...as it is written in the law of the Lord... --Luke 2:23

On February 2, the minor festival, *Presentation of our Lord*, will be celebrated in our church. Our ceramic holy family figures—Joseph, Mary, and Jesus—will make a final appearance before being put away until Christmas. We will sing hymns designated in our hymnal for the *Presentation of our Lord*.

The first hymn will be *In His Temple Now Behold Him*. The text was composed by Henry J. Pye (1825-1903), a 19th century Anglican priest. The tune was composed by Henry T. Smart (1813-1979), an organist who in the last 15 years of his life was practically blind. He composed by dictation to his daughter, Ellen.

The words and music of our second hymn, *In Peace and Joy I Now Depart*, were composed by Martin Luther. The ‘voice’ of this hymn is the righteous man, Simeon, a main character in the gospel reading for the *Presentation of our Lord*. Luther’s words portray the reverent faith of Simeon as he greeted the Christ child. Luther’s tune composed for the text leaves much to be desired (in my opinion). We will do our best to sing!

The text and tune of the closing hymn, *In a Lowly Manger Born*, were composed by natives of Japan. This hymn, oddly, is not found in our hymnal with the Christmas carols, but appears near the end (# 718). Ko Yuki (1896-1985) wrote the text and is known for translating *Silent Night* into Japanese. Abe Seigi (1891-1974) composed the tune, *Mabune* (which means “manger” in Japanese). Finally, during the distribution of Holy Communion, we will sing *O Lord, Now Let Your Servant*, which uses imagery for the *Presentation of our Lord* festival day.

Minor church festivals celebrate events in Jesus’ life often overlooked. *Presentation of our Lord* highlights how Joseph and Mary respected law—the civil and religious laws of their time. *Presentation of our Lord* is a day to contemplate law and order. The holy family—Joseph, Mary, and Jesus—followed the laws of their day. So should we and everyone. Without law, there is chaos; without the gospel, however, there is harshness without mercy. We need both law and gospel, a balance that we always tilt toward grace.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy



February, 2025

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



MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

JEREMIAH

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

This ongoing course explores passages from Jeremiah and Lamentations.

1. How Certain Is Our Future? (Jer. 31: 27-40) / February 3
2. Can You Imagine a Different World? (Jer. 31:27-40) / February 10
3. Will God Turn to Save Us? (Lamentations 3:1-39) / February 17

Each participant will receive a learner's guidebook for personal use. Bibles will be provided or bring your own. Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss key passages from Jeremiah and Lamentations. All are welcome. This study group will conclude on February 17.



THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

THE BOOK OF ACTS

10:00 am- 11:00 am

This ongoing course explores selected passages from Acts.

World Upside Down (Acts 17:1-34) / February 6

A Riot in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-41) / February 13

On Trial for the Resurrection (Acts 24:1-27) / February 20

And So We Came to Rome (Acts 28:1-31) / February 27

Each participant will receive a learner's guidebook for personal use. Bibles will be provided or bring your own. Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss key passages from the book of Acts. All are welcome. This study group will conclude on February 27.



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Steward healthy relationships



There's no escaping love in February, is there? Everywhere – valentines, red roses, heart-shaped boxes of chocolates and other sweets for the ones we love.

This is all good and right, because ever since God declared that it is not good for a person to be alone (Genesis 2:18), people have found comfort, excitement, safety, companionship, joy, contentment and fulfillment in the company of others.

That's why February is perfect for celebrating healthy, loving relationships of all sorts. Good stewards care for every gift God gives us – healthy, loving relationships especially. And because Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors and our enemies alike, we do well to work on relationships beyond our immediate circles.

Suggestions:

Couples: Give flowers and chocolate, sure, but also spend quality time with one another. Talk deeply and listen intently. Pray and read scripture together. Hold hands during worship. Talk often and listen deeply. Read Gary Chapman's "The 5 Love Languages" to improve your relationship.

Families: Rejoice in the love that holds you together – parents, grandparents, children, siblings, cousins -- everybody. Organize Sunday family dinners. Say, "I love you." Talk through problems and work together.

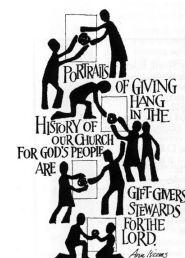
Friends: Enjoy time with buddies, but also cultivate deeper and more spiritual friendships. Share problems and successes. Grow together in faith.

Church neighbors: Send friendship valentines to everybody in church. As a congregation designate "love your neighbor" Sunday at which you have a potluck. And/or movie night or game night.

Community neighbors: Send a valentine and a piece of candy to immediate neighbors or everybody in your address book to let them know that friendships and neighbors are important. Start – or revive – block parties, community cleanup days, yard sales or fellowship gatherings.

God gives us relationships of all kinds so that we can have companionship, friendship, security and joy. As stewards of all that God gives us, we can nourish and celebrate healthy, strong relationships.

--Rev. Rob Blezard





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



Blanket Tying Event Thank-You

The 8th annual blanket tying event was a huge success! Our hard working crew created 31 blankets for Daily Bread Ministries. A big thank you goes out to Debbie Lutz who helped with set-up, and to the Copenhavers, Hough's Keplar's, Monica Aravich and Deb Lutz who provided refreshments. And thanks to our faithful church members Larry and Pam Bucher, Vedette, Eric, Henry and Ewan Keplar, Andrea and Lilana and Samantha Croom, Tom and Sara Dougherty, Pastor, Nate and Grant Kegel, Pastor and Barb Heagy, Dagmar Gerst, Becky and Tom Hough, Judy and Allan Copenhaver, Debbie Lutz and Cindy Brown who joined over 25 people from the Bhutanese community. Pastor Bob Maravelli was overjoyed with our delivery of goods and extends great thanks, love and prayers to all of us.

GLOBAL LINKS *Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.*

We will be meeting every 2nd Tuesday of every month and 4 Saturdays:

Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 pm

Tuesday, January 14

[Tuesday, February 11](#)

Tuesday, March 11

Tuesday, April 8

Tuesday, May 13

Tuesday, June 10

Tuesday, July 8

Tuesday, August 12

Tuesday, September 9

Tuesday, October 14

Tuesday, November 11

Tuesday, December 9

Saturday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

[Saturday, Feb 22 from 10:00-12:00pm](#)

Saturday, March 22 from 10:00-12:00pm

Saturday, June 14 from 10:00-12:00pm

Saturday, September 13 from 10:00-12:00pm



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE:

February, 2025

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

8:30

10:00

February 2-Crucifer

Easton Darcy

Xavier Graybill

February 9-Crucifer

Chase Lutz

Addy Wetzel

February 16-Crucifer

Isla Gentzel

Luke Frankovitch

February 23-Crucifer

Finn Darcy

Nico Provins

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:

*Sponsor the Coffee Project of Lutheran World Relief, helping small growers, their families and communities through the fair trade of coffee.

*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 in the foyer or contact the church office to reserve a day.



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

IN -PERSON, SANCTUARY WORSHIP

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

THE WORD of the LORD

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 2 | Presentation of Our Lord Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 24:7-10 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40 |
| February 9 | Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11 |
| February 16 | Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26 |
| February 23 | Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 45-50 Luke 6:27-38 |

Sunday School 10:00 AM

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

2025 Congregational Council Officers

Our 2025 Congregational Council begins its year of service this month. They are: They are: Ryan Solomon (Youth); Rick Spickard (Finance); Tom Ultsch & Patrick Snyder (Property); Cindy Brown (Worship), Jim Needles (Stewardship), Alan Trivilino (Evangelism), Allan Copenheaver (Social Ministries), Jody Lutz (President), David Hale (Vice President), Carole Vogeley (Educational Ministries), Karen Pfeil (Congregational Life), & Amy Stabenow (Secretary).

Thanks our outgoing council members, Sara Dougherty, Jeff McGraw, Melodie Frankovitch, and Julia Nelson for sharing their time and talents. We offer heartfelt thanks for their leadership.

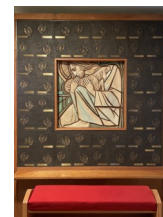
The Congregational Council is constituted in order to provide a partnership with the pastor in the ministry of the Gospel. Our new council was installed on Sunday, January 26. Members who do not serve as officers serve as liaisons for the Standing Committees of council.

COLUMBARIUM - South Chancel Wall

Interment in the columbarium is open to church members and their extended families, and the specific policy covering the use of and payments for the columbarium niches is available upon request from the church office.

The size of each niche is suitable for the cremations of one or two individuals. The cost of each niche is \$1,000 for interment of a single individual and \$1,500 for the interment of two.

**Please contact the church office to indicate your
interest.**



*The South Chancel Wall Columbarium
was completed July 2022*

WE REMEMBER in our prayers:



O God, fill us with your light, that we might delight in your goodness and glory and serve you with joy. Illumine with your light, we pray, those who struggle in sickness and in sorrow with the warmth of your healing presence which will remind them that they are not alone.

Especially we pray for:

Craig Elias; Andy Kelemen; Linda Larkin; Bill Young;
John Pujia;

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the March issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by Sunday, February 16th. Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.

Daily Bread Meal

Thank you to all of the cooks, servers, and those who contributed financially for the meal on 1/26/25. We served @ 140 individuals.

The next Meal with the Poor will be on March 13. The menu will be determined at a later date. At this time, monetary donations are being welcomed. Please remember this much needed ministry on the North Side. Thank you.

Could God be calling you to serve as an Usher or Lector?

If interested in serving God as a Full-time or Substitute Usher or Lector—please contact the Church office at 412-563-0100. Training will be provided.

“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”

2 Timothy 4:2

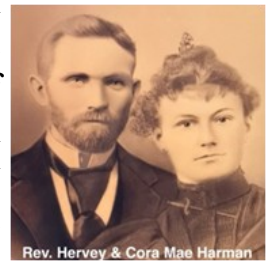
FINAL 2024 Financial Giving Statements have been mailed. If you have questions about your statement, please call Allan Copenheaver at 412 563-6865, or email allancope@yahoo.com. The church office does not assist with questions, which remain confidential with our financial secretary.

2025 – Celebrating our Past and Proclaiming God’s Word into the Future

2025 is an exciting year as Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church celebrates its 100th year anniversary. You will continue to learn about our history and upcoming celebratory events in *The Voice*, on our website, in weekly emails, and on Sundays in the worship materials. Later this year, we will hold ecumenical events with two other Mt. Lebanon congregations that are also celebrating 100-year anniversaries. Most importantly, we will continue our strong social ministries and other outreach actions to demonstrate God’s word through our hands.

Our Origin: In 1924 the Liberty Tunnel opened and changed forever what we now call the South Hills of Pittsburgh. Prior to then Mt. Lebanon was too remote and inaccessible to attract suburban residents and businesses.

The opening of the Liberty Tubes led to rapid development and huge population growth. The Lutheran Board appointed a mission pastor early in 1925 and purchased a valuable and well-situated lot in Mt. Lebanon. Rev. Hervey E. Harman led a Lutheran congregation which first met in the auditorium of Washington School on Washington Road on January 11, 1925. Sunday school started with three classes on January 18, 1925.



Rev. Hervey & Cora Mae Harman

The first congregational meeting was held on February 22, 1925. It was there that plans were laid to organize the church. One week later, on March 1, 1925, Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church was officially adopted as our congregation’s name.

Next Month:

Our First Home on Academy Avenue.



Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 9

Souper Bowl of Caring helps young people across America develop a stronger connection to their communities by caring for their neighbors in need. Join the movement transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Youth volunteers will be collecting monetary donations after worship services on Sunday, February 9th in soup pots in the Narthex. Donations will benefit Dormont Free Pantry and St. Michael's Food Pantry. Your donation may be in form of cash (including change), or check payable to "Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church". We will also collect canned food through Sunday, February 16th as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring event.

Thank you for your continued support of the Dormont and St. Michael's pantries. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Education Ministries Update

Sunday School: Classes start each week at 10:00 with a Children's Message from Pastor at the beginning of Worship, followed by lessons in the classrooms at 10:10. Every other week, we conclude with music practice in the Opening Room at 10:55. Sunday School substitutes are needed. The curriculum is very easy to use, and the kids are a lot of fun! Please contact MBTrivilino@verizon.net for more information or to volunteer.

Service Projects: Our Sunday School students will make Valentine crafts for our homebound members on February 2. They are also participating in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring on February 9 to support local hunger relief efforts. Thank you to Deb Hazlett for coordinating these projects.

Seeking VBS Leaders:

Volunteers are needed for key leadership roles in Vacation Bible School, to be held July 14-18. Some tasks are done in advance (Spring and early Summer), and some are on-site during the week of VBS. Please contact Education Chairperson Carol Vogeley at cvog@msn.com more information.

New Educational Ministries Chairperson

The Educational Ministries Committee welcomes Carol Vogeley as our new Chairperson. Carol taught children's music at Kindermusik and Montessori School, and worked with children's music in many different church settings for over 40 years. Currently, she is co-leads our Children's Music program at Mt. Lebanon Lutheran. Her love of teaching is evident as she brings joy and boundless energy to VBS Music, the Advent Pageant and Sunday Kids' Choir practice! Please pray for Carol and for all of our Education volunteers as we continue our mission to equip our students to be disciples of Christ!



*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.*

Catechetical students and parents are reminded that **Sermon Summary Forms** are on the table in the Narthex. Students are to complete 7 sermon summaries during the course of their current year of study.

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





FOR GOD...

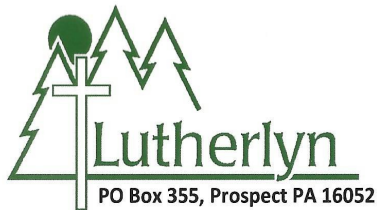
SO LO**V**ED THE
WORLD TH**A**T HE GAVE HIS
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MAY **N**OT PERISH
BUT MAY HAV**E** ETERNAL LIFE.
John 3:16

Tax Reform Act May Make QCD's More Appealing

Several years ago, Qualified Charitable Distributions became an option for IRA holders, who are at least 70 ½, to donate directly to qualified charities. This has several possible good tax outcomes for the IRA holder. In cases where the taxpayer is taking the standard deduction, direct contribution will keep the IRA distribution out of taxable income, lowering taxes if you do not itemize. This also reduces Adjusted Gross Income that may reduce taxes on Social Security benefits and may reduce the taxpayer's Medicare premiums. Since this came from your IRA, you should not include this amount as a charitable on your tax return (if you itemize deductions, even if it appears on your year end giving statement.)

While nothing changed in 2024 as far as these rules, the near doubling of the standard deduction makes it more likely that taxpayer's will be taking the standard deduction. Taking an IRA distribution that goes into taxable income may not be offset by an itemized deduction for charitable contributions, increasing taxes if you do not itemize deductions. In short, contributions to MLULC (or other charities) may be more tax effective if donated directly from an IRA to the charity rather than being distributed to the taxpayer and then contributed to the charity. "Qualified charitable distributions count towards your required minimum distribution, if you have one this year."

If this is of possible interest to you, please contact the church treasurer, who can explain further and give you account information for our brokerage account that can accept QCD's.



You Are Invited to CampBlast!

Saturday, May 10th 2025, 11am-4:30pm

Join us for a day of FUN that highlights all that Lutherlyn has to offer. Campfire, crafts, gaga ball, archery, zipline, bouldering room, hiking, nature activities, hay rides, games, sports, LEGO room, tours, great food, and MORE!

The best part.... **EVERYTHING IS FREE!**

www.lutherlyn.com/campblast

\$100 off for FIRST-TIME campers!

This coupon entitles FIRST-TIME Lutherlyn campers to \$100 off the registration fee for Summer 2025. This applies to Lutherlyn's overnight week-long programs. Young Folks half-week programs get \$50 off for FIRST-TIME campers. Does not apply to Family Camp, Confirmation Camp, Day Camps, or Small Fry Days.

Must be a FIRST-TIME summer camper.

No additional discounts may be combined with this offer.

Enter coupon code: **FIRST**

Register at **WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM**.

(Please share this code with friends!)



**Registration
starts on
February 1, 2025**

Go to:

<https://www.lutherlyn.com/summer>
for details.

Watch for more information in
future
Voice Newsletters

Lutherlyn's 2025 Summer Camp Schedule

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Week 1 June 15-20 | -Confirmation Camp -Classic (Jr) (SH) -Horse Camp (Jr) | -Life in the Wild (JH) -Adventurers (JH/SH) -Staff-In-Training (SH) |
| Week 2 June 22-27 | -Classic (Jr) (JH) -Horse Camp (JH/SH) -Adventurers (JH/SH) -Musical Theater (Jr/JH) | -Young Folks (Sun-Wed) -Small Fry Days (Th & Fri) -Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri) |
| Week 3 June 29-July 4 | -Family Camp -On-Site Day Camp (1st-5th grade) -Adventurers Outpost (SH) | |
| Week 4 July 6-11 | -Classic (Jr) (JH) (SH) -Life in the Wild (Jr) -Horse Camp (JH/SH) -Adventurers (JH & SH) | -Young Folks (Sun-Wed) -Small Fry Days (Th & Fri) -Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri) |
| Week 5 July 13-18 | -Classic (Jr) (JH) -Venture (SH) -Horse Camp (Jr) | -Adventurers (JH & SH) -Arts Camp (Jr/JH) |
| Week 6 July 20-25 | -Classic (Jr) (JH) (SH) -Horse Camp (Jr) -Rocketry (JH/SH) | -Camp Medley (JH) -Junior Adventurers (Jr) |
| Week 7 July 27-August 1 | -Classic (Jr) (JH) -Night Owls (JH/SH) -Horse Camp (JH/SH) | -Rocketry (Jr) -Junior Adventurers (Jr) |

"Young Folks" - campers enter grades 2-3, "Jr" - campers enter grades 4-6,
"JH" - campers enter grades 7-9, "SH" - campers enter grades 10-12 or 2025 graduate

Registration for 2025 starts on February 1.
Campships are available for all who need assistance.
Visit www.lutherlyn.com/summer for details.

Your Place. Your Passion.



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

5 UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES:

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

EXPERIENCE LIFE AT VALPO

70+

MAJORS

100+

STUDENT
ORGANIZATIONS

21

DIVISION I
ATHLETICS PROGRAMS

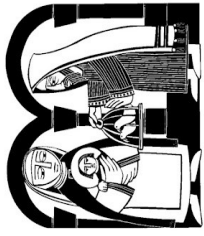
100+

ARTS PERFORMANCES
ANNUALLY

50+

STUDY ABROAD
PROGRAMS

VALPARAISO  **UNIVERSITY**
valpo.edu



February 2025



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Presentation of Our Lord 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:50 Sunday School Valentines Craft 10:00 Sunday School | 3 7:00 Bible Study | 4 1:00 Global Links 3:30 Catechetics 1 | 5 3:30 Catechetics 2 | 6 10:00 Bible Study | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Epiphany 5 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i> <i>And Collection of Can Soup</i> | 10 7:00 Bible Study | 11 3:30 Catechetics 1 | 12 3:30 Catechetics 2 | 13 10:00 Bible Study | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Epiphany 6 8:30 & 10:00 Live Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School | 17 7:00 Bible Study | 18 3:30 Catechetics 1 | 19 3:30 Catechetics 2 | 20 10:00 Bible Study | 21 | 22 10:00 Global Links |
| 23 Epiphany 7 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting | 24 7:00 Bible Study | 25 3:30 Catechetics 1 | 26 3:30 Catechetics 2 | 27 10:00 Bible Study | 28 | |

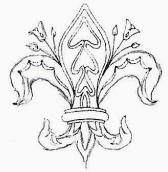
Celebrating 100 Years!
Mount Lebanon United Lutheran History
Our Sanctuary Front Door Entrance

***The meanings behind the symbols etched on
the glass of the Sanctuary Doors:***



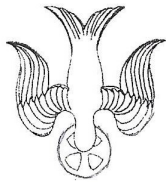
(The Six Pointed Star) “The Creator’s Star” is a symbol of God the Father. The crown within it is a symbol not only of royalty, victory, and recompense, but also of our Lord’s Kingly Office.

(Located on right front entrance door)



The Fleur-de-Lys is one of the thirty-six authentic symbols of Christ, Our Blessed Savior. It denoted specifically the “Human Nature of Our Savior” rather than His kingly aspect. It is one of the most beautiful symbols of our Savior, and was used long before it was adopted by the Bourbons, the royal family of France.

(Located on right front entrance door)



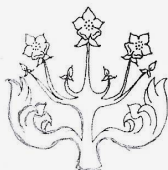
The descending dove is the most usual delineation of the Holy Ghost. This is one of the oldest and best of symbols representing the Holy Spirit.

(Located on right front entrance door)



The pomegranate is another symbol of Our Blessed Savior, and specifically of His Resurrection. It is a symbol of the power of Our Lord, Who was able to burst the tomb on Easter Day and come forth alive.

(Located on left front entrance door)



The Christmas rose is still another symbol of Christ, the Messianic promise. “And the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

Isaiah 35:1

(Located on left front entrance door)



The design of three fish is a well known symbol of the Holy Trinity. The three-leafed clover, within the fish, is a less well known symbol of the Trinity.

(Located on left front entrance door & office door)

**This information came from a 1958 Gateway to Peace Dedication Program.*



1 *World Interfaith Harmony Week (U.N.)* Ask the Spirit to help congregations create opportunities for dialogue and learning with people whose religious beliefs and traditions are different from our own, for the sake of peace, harmony, cooperation and mutual understanding.

2 The word of God brings joy and comfort to us yet is sometimes difficult to hear. Pray that we will reflect on how God's word strikes us, especially when it challenges what is safe, familiar and comfortable in our lives.

3 Ask God to help us move beyond our apprehensions, anger and entrenched beliefs so that we might confess and address deeply rooted aspects of racism that poison relationships, workplaces, society and the church. Pray for the Spirit to remind us that we are children of God who live in grace and are called to love, respect and serve one another — complexities, differences and all.

4 Among all our gifts and abilities, the most important is love for God and our neighbors — family, strangers and siblings in Christ alike. Praise God for teaching us what love entails through the selfless, unreserved and undeserved love of Jesus Christ for humankind.

5 Pray for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries of the ELCA, which seeks, supports, nurtures and sends pastors and seminary students to serve as federal chaplains and chaplain candidates for the U.S. military, Veterans Affairs hospitals and federal correctional institutions. Give thanks for chaplains and the gifts that the Spirit nurtures within them as they serve in unique contexts.

6 Lift up prayers and songs of praise to God for being the bright light in the world that illuminates the one true and enduring source of hope, guidance and eternal life — Jesus Christ.

7 Use the words of Psalm 71:3 in your prayer to God today: "Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress."

8 Pray for our neighbors and siblings in Christ who labor in one or more jobs to meet basic daily needs for themselves and their families. Ask God to strengthen and sustain their spiritual and physical strength and to help us be supportive, caring and generous neighbors.

9 Ask God to help us be attentive and responsive to how God speaks to us through Scripture, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the work of the Spirit and the encouragement and admonition offered by our siblings in Christ.

10 Give thanks for the ELCA's commitment to accompany and work with interreligious partners, including the Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, an initiative that connects, equips and mobilizes leaders and members of faith communities to address anti-Muslim discrimination and violence, foster greater understanding and shift attitudes about Islam and Muslims in our country.

11 What tasks feel overwhelming to you right now? Ask God to renew your spirit for undertaking those things that are difficult to work through and accomplish.

12 Remember in prayer our ministries in nine African countries. Pray for ELCA Global Mission personnel, International Women Leaders and Young Adults in Global Mission who work alongside companion churches to help spread the gospel, equip leaders, grow the church and respond to community needs.

13 We are recipients and beneficiaries of the good news of Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and imperfections and defied the finality of death so that we could live with newfound freedom in this world, and forever in the kingdom of God.

14 Give thanks to God for the leaders of our church who respond to God's call by serving as ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service. Ask the Spirit to sustain their faith, inspire their joy in ministry and equip them with gifts and skills for serving in diverse and challenging contexts.

15 Pray for peace, healing and justice, especially in the critical contexts of Ukraine, Russia, Haiti, the Middle East, troubled regions of Africa and wherever conflict and war exist in the world.

16 Remember in prayer those impacted by the wildfires in Southern California and by severe winter weather, and those involved in long-term recovery from disasters. Give thanks for Lutheran Disaster Response and for synods and congregations that provide financial support, resources, volunteers and encouragement.

17 Pray for the 300 health and human service organizations that form the alliance of Lutheran Services in America and serve more than 6 million people every year in the United States and the Caribbean. Pray that our work together through these organizations will provide us with abundant resources and skills to respond to the unique needs of people of all ages.

18 "I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you" (Isaiah 43:1-2). Give thanks and praise to God for being our ever present help in every circumstance of life.

19 Praise God for the work of the Spirit, which creates and nurtures our faith and hope in Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, whose love has no limits and endures through our ups and downs.

20 *World Day of Social Justice (U.N.)* Ask for God's help to advance social justice everywhere, to foster healthy societies and economies, to end inequality and discrimination, and to increase inclusion — issues critical for the well-being of our neighbors and communities.

21 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

22 Remember in prayer our ministries in nine countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Pray for ELCA Global Mission personnel and Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers, who help deepen relationships of accompaniment with companion churches and who work to develop leaders, strengthen education and health ministries, and confront issues of migration and gender justice.

23 "Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you" (Luke 6:27-28). Pray for humility and courage to love our neighbors as God has loved us.

24 In the dreariness of winter, when nature seems lifeless, give thanks to God for the people and little things reminding us that life endures, though we might think it depleted. God's ability to create, revive and sustain life — even in us — is cause for joy and thanksgiving!

25 Pray for synod bishops gathering for the spring Conference of Bishops in Itasca, Ill., that the Spirit will guide and enrich their time together for worship, study, mutual sharing, and conducting business. Give thanks for their guidance of our church and ask God to equip them for leadership, service and responding to the growing challenges of ministry in our 65 synods.

26 Give thanks for the work we do together through programs, ministries and initiatives of the ELCA and our synods. Pray that our church will thrive and that we will inspire faith and hope wherever we share the good news of Jesus Christ.

27 "Esteem [the Bible] as the precious fountain that can never be exhausted" (Martin Luther, *Table Talk*). What stories and texts in the Bible are most familiar to you? Pray for the Spirit to help you discover something new and revealing each time you read or hear those familiar texts.

28 Pray for the ministries unique to your community, that we will consider the people and needs they serve, value their staff and volunteers, and generously support their work.

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Evangelical
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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

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sunday, March 2, 2025

[The Last Sunday after the Epiphany]



A solemn day of the Church Year

Ash Wednesday

Liturgy times: 11:00 AM & 7:30 PM

March 5, 2025



Sealing of the alleluia, confession, imposition of ashes
and a restrained celebration of the Lord's Supper
to begin our Lenten journey of turning away from sin
to be faithful to the Gospel in Jesus Christ.

God said to Adam, remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return.