

the Voice parish newsletter

Thanks be to God for our 100th Year!



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

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." –John 20:26

Resurrection was at first impossible news for Thomas. One week after Jesus' resurrection, Thomas was with the other disciples. Jesus appeared and said, "Peace be with you." Then to Thomas, "Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!"

Optimism about humanity, a prevailing theme in 19th century theology, was largely rejected after World War I. Few believed any longer in 'cultural progress'. Chemical weapons dashed hopes humankind was improving. One theologian, Friedrich Gogarten, adopted the pessimistic view of humanity and advocated returning to God. He wrote...

We have all entered so deeply into the human that we have lost God. There is no thought in us any more that reaches Him. We know more certainly what God is not. We can no longer deceive ourselves and mistake the human for the divine. The dream of salvation through cultural progress has been dreamed out, and the stage is being cleared for the question of God.

Time now is rife with misplaced hopes. It's high time for repentance; returning to God. Mainline churches, devoted to antinomian theology and politics, lie in ruin, diminished to irrelevance. To redact Gogarten, *the dream of salvation through politics has been dreamed out, and the stage is now cleared for returning to God.*

Join us for Easter and all the Sundays of Easter. Bring doubts and despair you may have over politics; institutional religion. Pray to meet Jesus. Believe there is a living faith and the Christ who never ceases to come for us. Jesus offers peace that the world and its politics cannot give; gospel peace; resurrection; living faith. A blessed Easter to all.

Peace; new life in Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy



April, 2025



MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Gospel of Mark

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

This Bible study is a weekly group discussion of one chapter from Mark's gospel.

April 7	Mark 6
April 14	Movie Night (Social Hall)
April 21	Movie Night (Social Hall)
April 28	Mark 7
May 5	Mark 8

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss one chapter of Mark's gospel each week and related Bible passages with a view toward life applications and current events. All are welcome. This study will conclude June 30. Weekly attendance is optional; come when you can!



THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

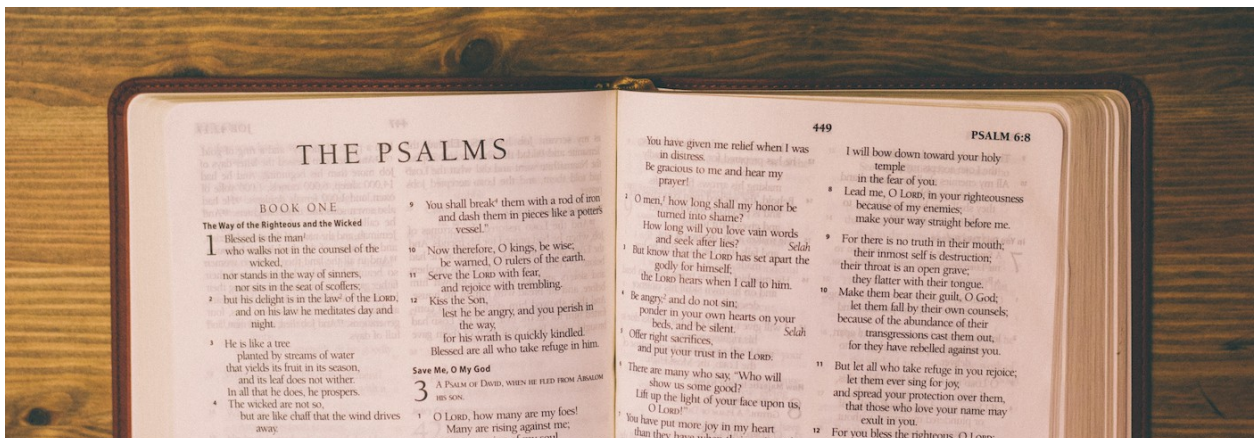
10:00 am- 11:00 am

THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss one Psalm each week, learning the setting and purpose of each Psalm and making applications for life today.

April 3	Psalm 5
April 10	Psalm 6
April 17	Holy Thursday (No Class)
April 24	Psalm 7
May 1	Psalm 8

Bibles will be provided or bring your own. All are welcome. This Psalm study is ongoing and could continue for three years. Weekly attendance is optional; come when you can!



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Electronic Giving: It's a Hospitality Issue



e-Giving in Churches

In a recent church giving study, one finding was that “60% of overall churchgoers prefer giving electronically, and preferences toward e-Giving were strong across all ages groups.” A surprising finding of the study is that the more active people are in church, the more likely they are to want to give electronically. E-Giving will not replace the traditional offering plate, but it does help congregations as an additional giving option.

e-Giving Options

There are several e-Giving options listed below very briefly. Every church must decide what options are possible; each church needs to evaluate what they can feasibly provide.

Recurring payments: Promote and work with members to set up recurring payments through their bank. Usually called e-payment, many people already pay their bills this way.

Credit cards: Accept credit and debit cards through your website. There are two major ways to accomplish this. The first is to set up a system with your church's bank. They will help you set this up, and give you the links you'll need for your website. The banks charge a fee per transaction. The second credit card option is to bypass the bank and set up an electronic giving account with a payment service. What to do about the fees? Some churches build this into their operating expenses. Other churches ask members to include their fee in their gift.

Giving kiosk: Some churches have installed a kiosk. The kiosk accepts credit and debit cards. People can make a payment on a pledge, offer a one-time gift, make a purchase, and even register for events. One church named its kiosk “Gracie” to make it a bit less threatening.

Text to give: This is probably the easiest of the options for people with smartphones, and the one with the most possibilities to use in the context of worship and programs. You will need a text giving platform (software) to handle this type of giving.

e-Giving as Hospitality

Offering electronic giving at your church is an act of hospitality. Hospitable churches invite and welcome people; they help people develop relationships; and they offer worship, services, and programs that honor today's busy lifestyles.

Contact our church office to learn about our e-giving option and to provide feedback on the ideas shared in this article. In Christian faith, to give is to live. E-giving is a new option!



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



Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Campus Grounds Renewal Project is Underway

As our congregation begins its next 100 years of its history, we are taking steps to enhance our grounds on the Washington Road facing side of our campus. Our appearance should be welcoming, safe, and ensure the long-term viability of our building. Plans are actively underway to refresh our “front door” to the community.

We recently removed one dead tree and one diseased tree on the northern portion of the church grounds. These posed potential risks to vehicular traffic as well as the many school children, dog walkers, joggers, and other pedestrians along Washington Road. Additionally, three trees in front of the Education wing were harvested. The pin oaks continued to grow up and out into the power lines. Also, their leaves do not disintegrate which create maintenance issues, impact the roof, and result in untenable insurance implications.

New trees will be planted as well as other features to beautify our property. A committee of church members will be reviewing native tree species that are approved for Mt. Lebanon and the Pittsburgh region. These trees will enhance our property, address safety and other concerns, and reflect environmental stewardship.



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: April, 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] 901-0155; or email the church at mtleboluth@aol.com

	8:30	10:00
April 6- Crucifer	Isla Gentzel	Nico Provins
April 13-Crucifer	TBA	TBA
April 20- Easter Crucifer	Chase Lutz	Xavier Graybill
April 27-Crucifer	Henry Keplar	Luke Frankovitch



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

WORSHIP

Sunday's
8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

Virtual Worship 8:30 AM Facebook LIVE
Posted later on our YouTube channel

THE WORD of the LORD

- April 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Isaiah 43:16-21
 Psalm 126
 Philippians 3:4b-14
 John 12:1-8
- April 13 Sunday of the Passion
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:9-16
 Luke 23:1-49
- April 20 Resurrection of Our Lord
 Isaiah 25:6-9
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Mark 16:1-8
- April 27 Second Sunday of Easter
 Acts 5:27-32
 Psalm 118:14-29
 Revelation 1:4-8
 John 20:19-31

Sunday School 10:00 AM



First Holy Communion....For those second graders [and older children who have not yet been instructed], First Communion instruction dates are listed below. The children who receive instruction will celebrate their First Holy Communion at the **on Sunday, May 18**



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

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

First Communion instruction in Eastertide 2025 will be offered on Saturday mornings, promptly at 10:00 AM, on April 26, May 3 and May 10. Classes will be one hour in length. Attendance is required! Parents of students are encouraged to attend. There will be a make-up class date of April 17.

Questions with regard to communion practices and/or First Communion instruction are welcome and should be directed to the Pastor.



Looking Ahead Upcoming Feast Days

Ascension of Our Lord
 Thursday, May 29th

Day of Pentecost
 June 8

The Holy Trinity
 June 15



WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

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

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

Newsletter Articles for the May Voice Newsletter are due to the church office by April 13 th.

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

Daily Bread Ministries Meal May 19

Donations are now being accepted in the white giving box in the Narthex; or you can mail checks to church office. Mark the check memo line, '*Daily Bread Ministries Meal*'. Look for the sign up sheet next month in the Narthex to help serve the meal. Thank you for supporting this vital ministry!

FLOWER CHART AND WORSHIP BULLETINS STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE 2025 YEAR.

Please see the signup sheets in the Narthex or call the church office for available dates.

What to do while fasting....

- Pray (Dan. 9:3; Acts 14:23);
- Meditate on the Word of God (Ps. 1:1-2; Col. 3:16).
- Meditate on the attributes of God: love, grace, wisdom, compassion, sovereignty (Ps. 48:9, 10; 103:1-13).
- Expect God to bless you and reveal Himself to you (Heb. 11:6).
- Do not underestimate spiritual opposition (Gal. 5:16, 17)
- Refuse to yield to your worldly nature (Rom. 12:1-2).
- Exhibit an attitude of joy (Zech. 8:19; Matt, 6:17,18).

WELCOME to the Lord's Family...

On April 20, we will receive Natalie Diana McDowell through the waters of Baptism. We rejoice with parents Drs. Michael and Samantha McDowell and their family. Natalie was born on December 12, 2024. Dr. Derek and Mrs. Diana Andreini will serve as their baptism sponsors.



Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the Cross of Christ forever, may Natalie know God's love as she grows into a



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Altar Guild members, Ushers and Lectors are needed! Please contact Cindy Brown at: cindysgb@icloud.com

PIANO AVAILABLE

We have recently replaced the upright piano in the Social Hall with a donated baby grand piano in much better condition. The upright piano is available for anyone interested. Please contact the Church office.



**We adore You, O Christ,
and we praise You. +
Because by Your holy
Cross You have redeemed the world**

GLOBAL LINKS
Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

Tuesday, May 13 from 1:00-3:00 pm

Global Links is located at 700 Trumbell Drive, Greentree 15205. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex or feel free to call the church office or Allan Copenheaver (412-563-6865) for more information. Please join us as we pack medical supplies for countries in need across the globe.

FROM THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

2025 Lenten Service Project

Gift Card and Bedding Drive for Local Refugees

Ash Wednesday (March 5) - Easter Sunday (April 20)

Global Refuge (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) is currently facing challenges due to federal funding changes. Support for refugees already lawfully resettled in the United States has been reduced, making necessary charitable giving from churches.

Funding for refugees has been frozen amid adjustments in national priorities. Many individuals are in need of humanitarian support. The dislocation of people is a global issue requiring action at local levels. Refugees rely on help in the forms of housing, food, heat, clothing, English classes, and job placement to name just a few. These goods and services help people achieve self-sufficiency.

During Lent, the Social Ministry committee is requesting the following gifts from church members to help those in need: **(1) Gift Cards from Aldi, Walmart, and UBER (\$25-\$50); and (2) New Bedding (sheets, pillows, and towels).** Please contact Allan Copenheaver with questions: (412-563-6865); allancope@yahoo.com; or see him in church. Place your gifts on the designated table in the church narthex as you enter the sanctuary.

We are grateful for *Global Refugee (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service)*. We are pleased to do our part as a church. *Global Refugee (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service)* is a nonprofit, serving people seeking safety, support, and a new beginning in America. For 85 years, it has welcomed those seeking refuge, upholding a legacy of compassion and grace. We walk alongside individuals, families, and children as they begin their new lives in the United States. To date, we have served over 750,000 people from around the globe. At Global Refuge, welcoming newcomers isn't just our duty—it's an inherent part of our identity, rooted in our Lutheran heritage.

Thank you for your support by these gifts during the season of Lent.

Gift Cards (\$25-\$50)

Aldi
Walmart
UBER



Bedding (NEW)

Sheets
Pillows
Towels



Get ready for a summer
adventure!

ROAD TRIP VBS

ON THE GO WITH GOD

Vacation Bible School

July 14-18, 2025

9am-noon



*"The Lord your God is with you wherever
you go." Joshua 1:9*

VBS Volunteers Needed – Youth and Adults

We've already started planning, but we need your help. Volunteers are needed to help with Vacation Bible School, some during VBS week, July 14-18. Other tasks can be done before or after VBS, in the evenings, weekends or whenever convenient. A few positions have been filled, but there are still openings in site leader, crew leader and assistant roles, as well as decorating, setup and publicity. Help is needed with crafts, science, snacks, Bible storytelling, and games.

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

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

VBS Road Trip 2025

Craft Donations

We need the following donations for VBS crafts by June 15. You can place donations in the 'CRAFT DONATIONS' box in the Narthex closet. If you have any questions, please contact Deb at drhazlett@verizon.net.

Thanks in advance for your help!

- 3-6" die-cut vinyl Alphabet Letters/Number adhesive stickers
- Crayola fabric markers for kids
- Legos-need some wheels, steering wheels, auto parts
- Folding travel maps (new or like new)



Our Children's Choir will sing in Worship on Palm Sunday. Many thanks to the kids for their hard work to prepare to enhance worship with their beautiful voices. Thanks to Carol Vogely and Barbara Heagy for leading the kids in music. We practice every other week at the end of the Sunday School hour.

All kids are welcome to join!



Lenten Devotions for All Ages

We have Lenten Devotional booklets for all age groups:

Adults: *"The Way, the Truth, and the Life"*

Excerpts from Henri J.M. Nouwen's inspiring insights are paired with original reflections and prayers to help us experience more fully the path Jesus took for our eternal benefit. These are available in the Narthex.

Large Print: *"A Season of Grace: Lenten Devotions for Seniors."* These daily devotions highlight the message and theme of God's grace. They encourage seniors to share this message of grace with younger generations. These were sent to our home-bound parishioners and are also be available in the Narthex for those who would like large print devotions.

Pocket Size:

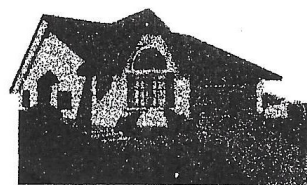
"Behold the Lamb: Daily Prayers for Lent" This pocket-size booklet of prayers focus on Jesus as the Lamb who sacrifices himself to take away the sins of the world. It's the perfect size for those on the go and are available in the Narthex.

"Life Renewed: Devotions for Lent" These devotions from Augsburg Fortress include evocative images, Scripture texts, pastoral wisdom, reflections, and prayers to guide us through the Lenten season.

Children: *"Stepping Stones through Lent"* Kids get to know Jesus a little better as they journey on the path towards Easter. Each stepping stone along the way includes Scripture about Jesus' life and a brief prayer. These booklets were distributed during Sunday School.

Teens/College: *"Sent into Lent."* Throughout Scripture, God sends faithful servants to work, sharing the good news of salvation. Teens and young adults will learn about those sent servants, while finding encouragement to answer Christ's call to action in their lives. These booklets were distributed in Catechetics and Youth Group and mailed to college students who provide their mailing address to the Church office.

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.

Our faith journey is never-ending, but we do go it alone. We are called and set in families of God.



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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 Now Underway

Go to:

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

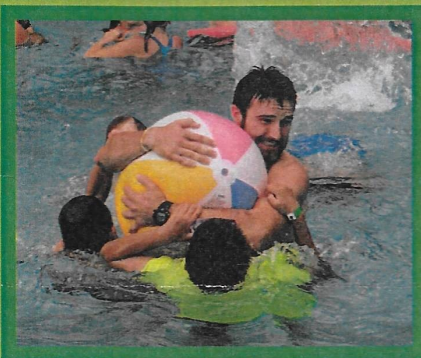
Watch for more information in
future
Voice Newsletters

Lutherlyn's 2025 Summer Camp Schedule

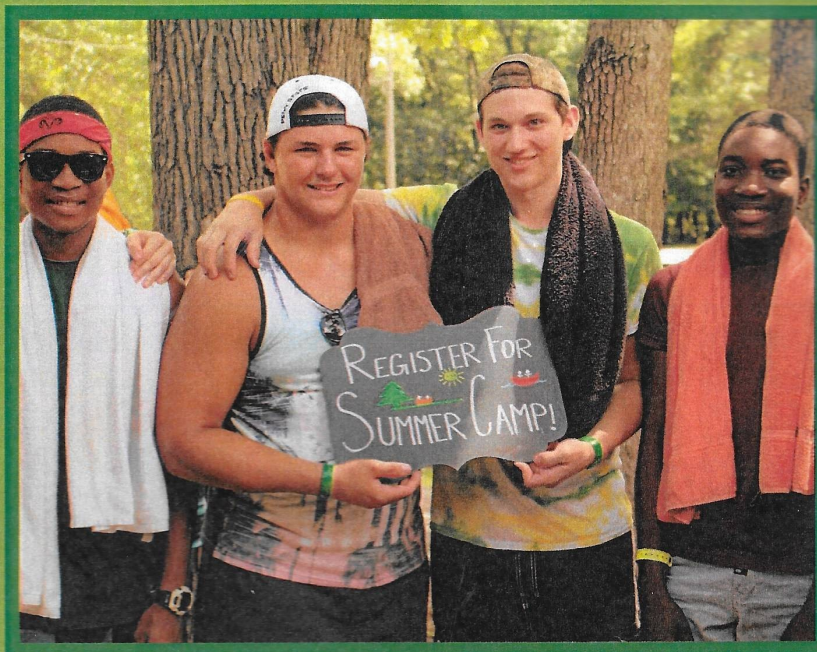
Week 1 June 15-20	-Confirmation Camp -Classic (Jr) (SH) -Horse Camp (Jr)	-Life in the Wild (JH) -Adventurers (JH/SH) -Staff-In-Training (SH)
Week 2 June 22-27	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Horse Camp (JH/SH) -Adventurers (JH/SH) -Musical Theater (Jr/JH)	-Young Folks (Sun-Wed) -Small Fry Days (Th & Fri) -Grown 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.



500 Lutherlyn Lane
Butler PA 16001
724-865-2161
www.lutherlyn.com



Accepted. Challenged. Sent.

SUMMER CAMP - REACH 2025

At Lutherlyn we combine fun, friends, swimming, adventure challenges, cookouts, worship, campfire, nature activities, games, songs, crafts, and LOTS of fun surprises into an unforgettable week!

Weeklong programs run from Sunday afternoon (2:30-4:00pm check-in) until Friday evening (6:00-7:00pm pick-up). Campers live in cabins furnished with bunk beds and bathrooms (including showers). Cabin Leaders live with their cabin group; campers are never left unsupervised.

Cabin groups eat, play, learn, and live together as a family. In addition to our highly trained staff, a nurse is present at camp at all times. The **REACH** program includes 1 week of Classic Camp (dates listed below), a snack and drink from the camp store each afternoon, a \$10 Camp Store Account, and any items needed from the packing list.

To register a camper through the **REACH** program, please call Lutherlyn at 724-865-2161.

Juniors

going into 4th - 6th grade

June 15-20

June 22-27

July 6-11

July 13-18

July 20-25

July 27-Aug. 1

Junior High

going into 7th - 9th grade

June 22-27

July 6-11

July 13-18

July 20-25

July 27-Aug. 1

Senior High

going into 10th grade - 2023

graduate

June 15-20

July 6-11

July 13-18

July 20-25

* The information on this flyer is for the 2025 **REACH** program; a need-based referral program. For a complete list of all Lutherlyn summer programs visit www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp.

A CALL TO A VIGIL OF PRAYER AROUND-THE-CLOCK DAILY THROUGHOUT HOLY WEEK



*Because prayer is grounded in God; because prayer is answered; because prayer has
no substitute; because prayer is power;*

and

Paul asked for prayer without ceasing,

and

Peter asked for a watch of prayer,

and never forgetting that

Jesus commanded

“Watch therefore, and pray always”



The 156 hours from the close of worship of Passion [Palm] Sunday until the faithful gather for Easter is one of the most important weeks in our congregation's life.

Pastor Doug is participating and invites you to join with your congregational family members in the Holy Week Vigil of Prayer. Around-the-clock, prayers of confession, adoration, thanksgiving, intercession and petition will be brought before our Heavenly Father's throne of grace.

Each prayer participant will select one or more hours in the Holy Week schedule during which they will maintain the Vigil. A sign-up poster board is located in the Narthex for those attending sanctuary worship. Those who worship virtually and all others who wish to join in the vigil must call the church office to reserve vigil times (412-563-0300).

A guidebook listing congregational members, missionaries, church leaders, governmental officials, the afflicted and homebound, as well as many others in need of prayer, will be provided to all participants. In the guidebook you will find suggestions for opening and closing your hour of prayer. Common prayers in the booklet, hymnal, and other prayerbooks may assist you. *You may find the hour to pass very quickly! God will bless your service.*

All participants will pray at home or in the sanctuary during office hours. Participation of homebound and out-of-town members is encouraged.

God has appointed prayer for conferring blessings we all need, whether spiritual or temporal, and has ordained prayer as a joyous occasion of divine-human fellowship.

Please join fellow members in these great hours of prayer. Scripture exhorts us to “pray without ceasing.” The Holy Week vigil is a way we participate in the unceasing prayers of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.



National Library Week!
“Coffee Hour By-the-Book”
April 6th in the Foyer

There will be **bookish treats** to eat and **free bookmarks**.
For entertainment-**animals reading books**. *SHHHH!*
Hope to see you there!



Into Books!
April features **Easter books in the Library!**
Practice being a storyteller! Share the **GOOD NEWS!**
Jesus **LOVES** you!

Hosanna
to
Hallelujah



Visit the Reflection Garden in the Foyer beginning *Palm Sunday*
through *Holy Week* and again on *Easter Sunday*.

During Holy Week, the garden will feature “**symbols**” that help to
tell Christ’s Passion Story. Look for each item in the garden.
Recall their importance and meaning.
This experience is shared with you as part of the
ongoing Art & Faith Initiative.



Easter Flowers and Tributes

Easter Flowers are symbols of the Resurrection and the new life we have in Christ, and they are used to adorn our Sanctuary for Easter Day celebrations.

In lieu of, or in addition to flowers, Easter Memorial or Tribute gifts may be made. Gifts of flowers and tributes will be acknowledged in a worship folder insert. **The deadline for contributing flowers, memorials and tributes is Sunday 4/6/25.**

Please indicate which flowering plants and quantity you wish to contribute.

_____ Easter Lily [6 1/2" pot] at \$11.00

_____ Hyacinth [6 1/2" pot] at \$9.50
(white, pink, blue-3 plants per pot)

_____ Tulip [6 1/2" pot] at \$9.50
(assorted colors)

_____ Mums [6 1/2" pot] at \$9.00
(white, yellow, purple)

_____ Hydrangeas [6 1/2" pot] at \$19.00
(pink, blue)

_____ Azaleas [6 1/2" pot] at \$19.00
(white, pink, red-pink)

_____ 10 " pot Large Lilies \$32.50



In addition to, or in lieu of flowers, I/We wish to present an Easter Memorial and Tribute Gift designated to:

Suggested Funds: Fine Arts, Memorial, Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Endowment, Stir Into Flame, ELCA World Hunger, Lutherlyn, SHIM, Daily Bread Ministries, St. Michael's Food Bank; Global Refuge Services; Roof Fund.

Donor: _____

Fund Name: _____ Amount _____

Please **print** the bulletin acknowledgement you desire:

****** If you used the **e-offering**, please still submit this order form to the church office with # flowers, and/or memorial/tribute gift. Also include your acknowledgement. Thank you.

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 on the bulletin board in the main hallway, or contact the church office.

THE WALK TO EMMAUS

SUNDAY, MAY 4
12:30 PM

On Sunday, May 4, church members are invited to join Pastor Heagy and others for a walk on the Montour Trail in remembrance of the Emmaus walk that took place on the first Easter Day.

We will meet at a designated point and conclude the afternoon with refreshments at Al's Café. Please join the fun and invite friends! We will walk, not run, in our time together. Doubters and stragglers are welcome!

MORE DETAILS ARE FORTHCOMING IN THE SUNDAY BULLETINS





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.



APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 3:30 Catechetics 1	2 9:00-2:30 ESL 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:30 Virtual Lenten Devotions	3	4	5
6 Lent 5 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School	7 9:00-2:30 ESL 7:00 Bible Study	8 1:00 Global Links 3:30 Catechetics 1	9 9:00-2:30 ESL 3:30 Catechetics 2 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:30 Virtual Lenten Devotions	10 10:00 Bible Study	11	12
13 Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School	14 9:00-2:30 ESL 7:00 Bible Study	15 1	16 Holy Wednesday 9:00-2:30 ESL 7:00 Choir 7:30 Virtual Lenten Devotions	17 Holy Thursday 7:30 Liturgy	18 Good Friday 7:30 Liturgy	19
20 Easter Sunday-Alleluia! 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship	21 Office Closed	22 3:30 Catechetics 1	23 9:00-2:30 ESL 3:30 Catechetics 2 7:00 Choir	24 10:00 Bible Study	25	26 First Holy Communion Class 10:00 AM
27 Easter 5 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting Youth Group 6 pm—8 pm	28 9:00-2:30 ESL 7:00 Bible Study	29 3:30 Catechetics 1	30 9:00-2:30 ESL 3:30 Catechetics 2 7:00 Choir			

100th Year Anniversary Events – Save the Dates!

We are celebrating our first century in Mt. Lebanon.
Please mark your calendar for the following events:

100th Year Anniversary Dinner Celebration at the St. Clair Country Club

Evening of June 19, 2025

Information (including cost) will be announced soon.

100th Year Anniversary “Super Celebration” on our Campus

Rally Day September 7, 2025

Church Tours

Sunday Afternoon June 29, 2025, from 2 - 4:30 PM

Three churches on Washington Road are celebrating their 100th year anniversaries. We are opening our doors to the community for tours!

If you would like to be a docent or greeter here at Mt. Lebanon Lutheran, please contact the Church Office or Alan Trivilino

A Century of Community

FREE TOURS OF THE
BUILDINGS THAT ARE THE
HEART AND SOUL OF MT.
LEBANON TURNING 100 THIS
YEAR.



Join us for special tours celebrating 100 years of history, community, and architecture in Mt. Lebanon! Explore three historic churches that have shaped our community over the past century. Discover timeless stories, stunning architecture, and the rich heritage that makes these spaces so unique. Whether you're a history enthusiast or simply curious about the landmarks that define our town, this is an experience you won't want to miss.





1 Pray for lasting peace between nations and for the healing of people who suffer conflict, war and violence, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, Syria, Haiti, Myanmar and regions of Africa.

2 *Arab American Heritage Month* Give thanks for the contributions and impact of Arab Americans in every aspect of society, including religion, education, science, business, government and the arts. Ask God to bless and further the work of ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries and the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage.

3 “You have come down to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy, but only asking for me to follow” (WOV 784). Praise God for seeking us out and, despite our imperfection, making us humble disciples, equipped and inspired by the Spirit.

4 Pray for church leaders, liturgists, scholars and scientists gathering to discuss including the Feast of Creation Day in liturgical calendars, an effort organized by the Roman Catholic Church in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, World Methodist Council, Anglican Communion and World Communion of Reformed Churches. Ask the Spirit to guide their study and discussion of climate justice, the Nicene Creed, the role of the Holy Trinity in creation, and how Christians engage with the creation story.

5 Remember in prayer worship leaders and musicians participating in the ecumenical Music that Makes Community workshop in Waco, Texas, a day of building community through singing, learning and fellowship.

6 Pray for a spirit of humble generosity that recognizes and encourages the diverse gifts and contributions of our siblings in Christ, who give as they are able and are inspired by their gratitude towards and love for God.

7 Praise the Creator for the new life of an emerging spring, which inspires our joy, awe and hope.

8 There are about 390,000 people in foster care in our country, ranging from infants to young adults. Pray that these young people will experience love, understanding, security and encouragement in their foster families. Give thanks for foster parents and remember those young adults who, aging out of foster care, may face new uncertainties.

9 Seek God's forgiveness and mercy for the times when we have hurt, offended or demeaned others, intentionally or unintentionally. Pray for the Spirit to grant us humility, penitent hearts and a compassion that stirs us to make amends and heal broken relationships.

10 Lift up in prayer farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers. Give thanks for their efforts to feed the world and care for creation, and pray for abundant harvests.

11 Give thanks that God is always doing something new in and through us, wonderful things that impact others when they witness Christ's awesome love reflected in our lives as disciples.

12 Pray for youth in our congregations and communities, recognizing the challenges they face, celebrating the joys they experience and showing gratitude for what they add to our faith communities, which need the gifts of *all* generations to do God's work in the world.

13 *Palm Sunday* Pray that we might accompany Jesus in his journey of persecution, suffering, death and resurrection, a journey of love and sacrifice for our sake.

14 Pledge to bear hope, grace and newness in Christ to our neighbors in need, especially those who are poor, hungry, sick, imprisoned, unemployed or plagued by war or domestic conflict.

15 Praise God for the strength we draw from Scripture, from our siblings in Christ, from living in community and from the tireless work of the ever-present Spirit.

16 Pray to the Lord for comfort, strength and renewed faith when you feel broken and worn-out.

17 *Maunday Thursday* Today we end our observation of Lent and shift our attention to what God has done for the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, son of God and son of humankind. Give thanks for the gift of new life in Christ, a life wrapped in God's boundless grace.

18 *Good Friday* “Start being brave about everything. Drive out darkness and spread light. Don't look at your weaknesses. Realize instead that in Christ crucified you can do everything” (Catherine of Siena, 1347-1380). Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our faith so that, through us, God's love and mercy might shine brightly in the world.

19 Ask the Spirit for a faith that is certain and resilient, even when we don't fully understand or appreciate what God has done for humanity through Jesus Christ.

20 *Easter Day* Sing praise and thanksgiving to God! This is the day the Lord has made for us to gather as loved and forgiven children, celebrating our freedom from the bondage of sin and death.

21 When you reflect on who might need your presence, comfort and reassuring words of love and hope, who comes to mind? Include them in your prayers and reach out to them.

22 Give thanks and pray for directors for evangelical mission, who serve in partnership with ELCA churchwide ministries and synods, helping them to found “new start” ministries, renew congregations, nurture stewardship, and identify, develop and equip leaders for ministry.

23 Every day, Jesus walks with us, sharing good news and wisdom just as he did with Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus. Pray that the Spirit will help us express that good news and wisdom in our conversations with our neighbors.

24 “We are not fed by only doing one way of ministry. Instead it is about seeing the face of God in every person who walks through the door, about embracing the inherent dignity of every individual, regardless of their circumstances” (the Rev. Esther K. Sianipar, [“Serving With Shobi's Table: A Reflection,” shobistable.org](http://shobistable.org)). Pray for our neighbors who suffer hunger, lack reliable access to nutritious food and yearn for the support of caring communities, and thank God for our congregational, synodical and churchwide ministries that serve them without bias or judgment.

25 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Alaska Synod, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod and Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

26 Thank God for the spiritual nourishment we receive when we gather around the table to celebrate communion, and for the Triune God, who calls and equips us to do God's work in the world.

27 Like the apostle Thomas, we all experience moments of doubt and disbelief. Pray that God will be patient and forgiving with us, rekindling our trust in a Spirit that helps us when our faith weakens.

28 Thank God for volunteers who respond to the needs of the church and society by sharing their time, gifts and passion. Pray that we will extend to people of all ages the invitation to serve God.

29 Pray for those who suffer the trauma of gun violence in their communities and elsewhere. Ask for wisdom in responding to our stricken neighbors, for guidance in working to ending gun violence and for fearless respect for human life — a precious gift from God, our creator.

30 Again, we rejoice and shout, “Hallelujah! The Lord, our savior, is risen!” The good news and power of Easter that we experience cannot be confined to a single calendar day.

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Kurt Kusserow

Bishop
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

The Reverend Douglas M. Heagy

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 Great and Holy Week

Holy Thursday— Festive Sanctuary Worship & Live stream on Facebook

April 17 at 7:30 pm

Holy Thursday marks the institution of the Lord's Supper and a call to heed Jesus' two commandments: "*Love one another as I have loved you;*" and "*Do this in remembrance of me.*" The Altar will be stripped to signify Jesus' betrayal, as he was stripped of glory and placed into the hands of his captors.

Good Friday~Festive Sanctuary Worship & Live stream on Facebook

April 18 at 7:30 pm

Our Tenebrae Liturgy is an adaptation of the ancient office of light dimming used to impress upon the hearts and minds of believers the awful consequences of sin and magnitude of our Savior's sacrifice. The liturgy includes hymns [sung without accompaniment]; readings which trace the experience of our Lord from His trial before Pilate to his crucifixion, death and burial; and prayers. Worshipers sense the grueling ordeal of Jesus' passion.



Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 20



Festive Sanctuary Worship 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM
Virtual Worship Live Stream on Facebook: 8:30 AM