

the Voice parish newsletter

Thanks be to God for our 100th Year!

*My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

Robert Lowry, credited by many for the words above (# 763 in our hymnal), was born in Philadelphia in 1826. At 17, he experienced a religious conversion. To prepare for ministry, he began studies at the University of Lewisburg (now Bucknell University), which was then newly chartered; its classes were held in the basement of a local Baptist church.

Three of Lowry's hymns are in our church hymnal, including *Shall We Gather at the River* and *We're Marching to Zion*. Whenever we sing them, I think of Lowry's humble beginnings. His parents came from Northern Ireland; his "college experience" was a church basement in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. We are nevertheless still singing his hymns; they are being sung throughout the world.

Our congregation has a humble origin; we began without a building. Our vitality has waxed and waned. While a specific number for churches reaching 100 years isn't available, most congregations do not reach this milestone, with average lifespans being shorter than 100 years.

On Sunday, September 28, at 4:30 PM we will host a 100th Anniversary concert. A joint choir from our church, Southminster Presbyterian Church (also celebrating its 100th year), and guest musicians will participate. Our Music Director Emeritus, Larry Allen, and current Music Director, Dr. Chris Keenan, will lead the event. When Robert Lowry composed the above words in 1869, our nation was reeling from a bitter war that nearly divided us forever. Lowry's words remain relevant. *Life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation...since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can we keep from singing?*

Join us September 28th for our anniversary concert. WQED 89.3 FM radio will be on hand to record the event for an on-air broadcast. We began humbly 100 years ago. By God's mercy, we're still singing. How can we keep from singing? God has blessed us; we're looking ahead to our next century. Our life flows on in endless song. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Peace and hope in Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy



September, 2025



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

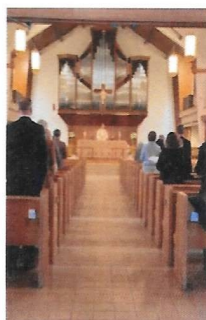


The Congregation is invited to...

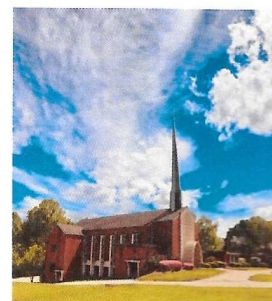
Celebrate our 100th Year Anniversary
at the "Centennial Super Celebration"
on Rally Day - September 7, 2025

We welcome the entire congregation and friends to attend what will be an unforgettable day of worship, service, and celebration. To commemorate our 100th year anniversary, we are holding a "Super Celebration" on our campus on Rally Day, September 7, 2025, following the 10 am worship liturgy and Sunday School.

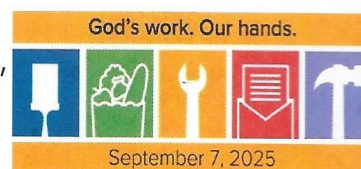
The Celebration will include:



- **Worship** Liturgies at 8:30 and 10 am
- **Fellowship** in the Foyer at 9:30 am
- **Sunday School** at 10 am
- **Centennial Commemoration** and Rededication at 11 am outside in Front of the Sanctuary.



- **Service Project** - "God's Work, Our Hands" led by Social Ministries in the Social Hall.



- **Food** - Catered Lunch, Cold Beverages, and a Special Dessert
- **Games & Prizes** - Activities, Fellowship, and a Puzzle contest



Come one, come all! Families and Friends are welcome to join us for this all-congregation celebration! Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or contact the church office to indicate how many will attend. **Please RSVP by Tuesday Sept. 2nd.**

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church Presents

A Centennial Concert of Vocal & Instrumental Music

**Celebrating 100 years of Faith & Outreach
in Mt. Lebanon, the Region, and Beyond**

The community is invited to this performance that will feature

- The Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church Choir & Organists Dr. Christopher Keenan and Larry Allen
- The Southminster Presbyterian Church Choir & Organist Lucas Barkley
- Scott Bell (Oboist for 28 seasons with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra)
- Barbara Hois (Flutist and Director of Chamber Music at the University of Pittsburgh)
- Mitchell Greco (Director of Percussion and World Music at West Liberty University)
- **Special Guest:** Charlene Canty (Soprano, Pittsburgh Camerata, Resonance Works)
- **Special Guest:** Marianne Cornetti (International Opera Mezzo-Soprano)

This performance will be recorded and broadcasted/streamed on WQED – 89.3 FM

There is no cost to attend the live performance.

September 28, 2025 – 4:30 pm

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

975 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Ample free parking is available. The building and campus are accessible.

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church is a 12-minute, mostly flat walk from the Pittsburgh Regional

Transit's Mt. Lebanon "T" station. Schedules are available at <https://www.rideprt.org/all-schedules/>

This concert is sponsored by



About the Concert and Venue:

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church is one of the churches on Washington Road that is celebrating its 100th year anniversary. This concert celebrates these anniversaries and the community of faith that shares God's love with all our neighbors. We welcome the choir from Southminster Presbyterian Church.

The concert will be held in Mt. Lebanon Lutheran's sanctuary which features excellent acoustics and a Fratelli Ruffatti Pipe Organ that was designed specifically for the worship space. Installed in 2002 it features three manuals and pedal, and consists of 36 pipe stops, 16 digital stops, 32 ranks and 1,816 pipes. The Ruffatti instrument is augmented by a 4 stop Antiphonal Division built and installed by J. Zamberlan and Company in 2009. It boasts a beautiful Trompette Enchamade as well as 8, 4, and 2 Principals.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Jesus' Transforming Presence

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." --Luke 19:8-10

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a stewardship lesson! Generations of children heard lessons based on the story of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector's curiosity about Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is also about eternity!

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. In Jesus' day, this was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector. This is why the people had such disdain for tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors: crooks in that they extorted their fellow citizens; traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that the tax collector, Zacchaeus, could see Jesus.

For this reason, he ran ahead and climbed a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display: this hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation took place. Notice how Jesus did it. He did not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does he ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transformation came by being in the very presence of Jesus! Jesus took a crooked, selfish, criminal and made him the most faithful steward. His new life of stewardship was marked by promises. First, he gave half of his ill-gotten gain to the needy; then he quadrupled the amount he stole from others when paying them back.

For sure, doing the acts of stewardship does not save us for heaven. Faith in Jesus is what saves! This is critical for us to know. Failed stewardship, however, can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus. Thankfully, we do not need to climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes himself available to us every week in worship. He speaks his Word of invitation to us in the words of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from selfish owners to stewards of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make worship a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours.



MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Gospel of Mark

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

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

September 15

Mark 11

September 22

Mark 12

September 29

Mark 13

October 6

Mark 14

October 13

Mark 15

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss one chapter of Mark's gospel each week and related Bible passages with a view toward current events. All are welcome. This study will conclude October 20. 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.

September 11 Psalm 12

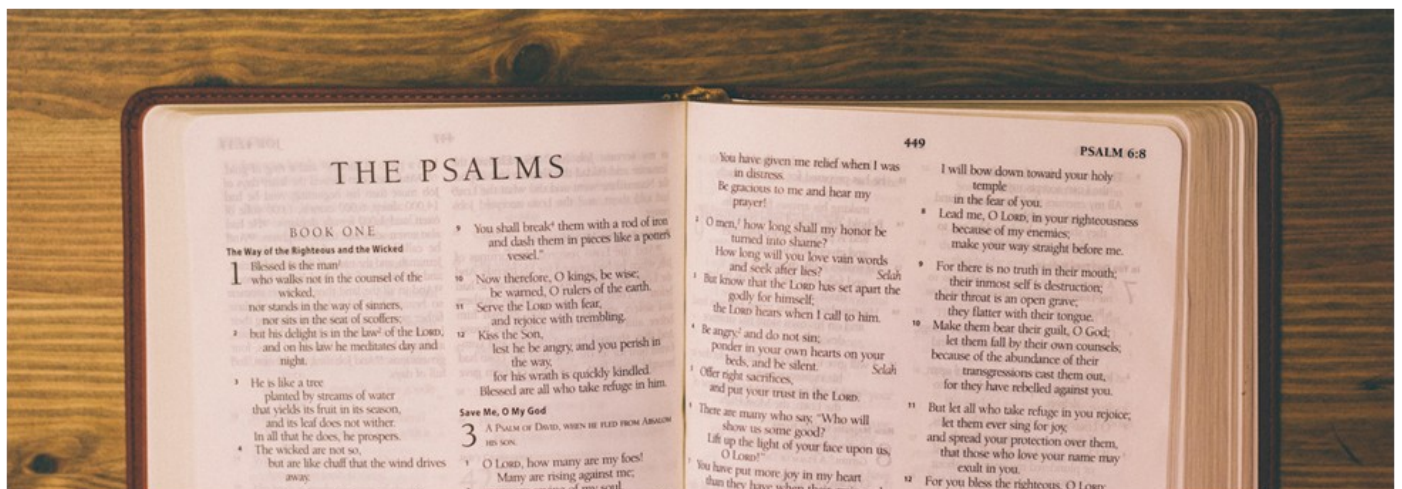
September 18 Psalm 13

September 25 Psalm 14

October 2 Psalm 15

October 9 Psalm 16

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!





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

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

The Word of the Lord

September 7 Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 Psalm 1
 Philemon: 1-2
 Luke 14:25-33

September 14 Holy Cross Day
 Numbers 21:4b-9
 Psalm 98:1-4
 1 Corinthians 1:18-24
 John 3:13-17

September 21 Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Amos 8:4-7
 Psalm 113
 1 Timothy 2:1-7
 Luke 16:1-13

September 28 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Amos 6:1a, 4-7
 Psalm 146
 1 Timothy 6:6-19
 Luke 16:19-31

Sunday School Begins—September 7
9:35 am in the Social Hall

Rally Day & 100th Anniversary Celebration—
September 7

Catechetical Classes Resume



Catechetical instruction in preparation for the public Affirmation of Baptism (the rite traditionally known as Confirmation) will resume this month. The 2025-2026 Level 1 Catechism Class will meet on Wednesdays at 4:30 PM, beginning September 10. The Level 2 Catechism Class will meet on Tuesdays from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM, beginning September 9. Class topics this year will include, Lutheran theology, our congregation history, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Contact Pastor Heagy at the church office (412-563-0300) to with any questions. Young persons begin catechism in Grade 7 but often in later grades.



Global Links

Tuesday, September 9 at 1:00-3:00 pm
&
Saturday, September 13 at 10:00 am—12:00 pm
Volunteers Needed To Help Pack
Surplus Medical Supply
for those in need.

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

Please contact Allan Copenheaver at
allancope@yahoo.com
 or the Church Office at 412-563-0300

The 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 19, at 9:30 AM (in-between liturgies) Look for more information in the upcoming bulletins.



WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

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

Craig Elias; Andy Kelemen; Linda Larkin; Bill Young; Shari Ehrlich; Dave Young; Robert Hordage; Patrick Brown;

SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER, 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

September 7-Crucifer

8:30 Ewan Keplar
10:00 Madelena Provins

September 14- Crucifer

8:30 Easton Darcy
10:00 Nico Provins

September 21-Crucifer

8:30 Henry Keplar
10:00 Annaleigh Dwulit

September 28-Crucifer

8:30 Dylan Solomon
10:00 Xavier Graybill

COFFEE and FELLOWSHIP



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

Full Choir Begins next Sunday, September 7 at 10:00 Liturgy. Please join us along with Chris Keenan and our wonderful choir as we begin a new year of angelic hymns and music in celebration



Mt. Lebanon Farmers' Market

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

The Farmers' Market operates through October 29th

Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi Sunday, October 5th Blessing of Pets at 10:00 in the Social Hall

We will be collecting supplies for Animal Friends Shelter on Sunday, October 5th 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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 10:00 AM
PET BLESSING SERVICE



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12
FESTIVAL OF SAINT LUKE
HEALING LITURGY



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19
CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING
BETWEEN THE LITURGIES



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 9:30 AM
REFORMATION SUNDAY
Bishop Melissa Stoller preaching





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



Rally Day! Sunday School Starts September 7

Join us as we kick off our academic year! Students ages 4 and up—come meet your teachers and classmates. Teachers and students are commissioned at the beginning of the 10:00 Liturgy. After Sunday School classes, please join us for our Centennial Super Celebration and our Rally Day Service Project. We will assemble Healthy Snack Bags for Daily Bread Ministries. This is our ELCA God's Work/Our Hands Day of Service.

Schedule for September 7

8:30 – Early Worship Liturgy

9:30 – Fellowship in the Foyer

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

10:15—Students & Teachers to Classrooms for Lessons

11:00 – Anniversary Commemoration on front lawn

11:20 – **Entire congregation invited to Social Hall** to assemble Healthy Snack Bags for God's Work/ Our Hands Service Project

11:45 – Catered Lunch in Social Hall and outside in courtyard.

12:20 – Games, Activities and a Special Dessert!

RSVP in Narthex by Sept. 2

See you on Rally Day!

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the September issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by Sunday, September 14th. Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.

Sunday School Teachers, and Substitutes Needed

Sunday School Teachers & Substitutes Needed:

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



YOUTH GROUP MEETING

Youth Group meetings will resume on Sunday, October 19. Further details will be provided in the upcoming Sunday bulletins and in the October newsletter.

During September, youth will assist during Rally Day on September 7 and on September 28 when we hold our anniversary concert. Thanks to Ryan and Ashleigh Solomon for leading the youth in the coming year.



Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran
In Person Sunday School Student 2025- 2026 Registration and Information

[Please Print]

Parents: _____

Address: _____

Family contact email address: _____

Phone Number [s]: _____ cell phone # _____

Child 1: _____ Date of birth: _____

September Grade and School: _____

Allergies / Special Needs: _____

Child 2: _____ Date of birth: _____

September Grade and School: _____

Allergies / Special Needs: _____

Child 3: _____ Date of birth: _____

September Grade and School: _____

Allergies / Special Needs: _____

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

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

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

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

*"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

Social Ministries and Rally Day Service Project

Healthy Snack Bags for Daily Bread Ministries

The ELCA marks September 7 as “God’s Work/Our Hands Sunday”—a day of service among congregations throughout the country. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

God’s work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

Our Congregation’s Service Project runs from now through September 1st, and it involves Sunday School families and the entire Congregation! We are once again collecting food and bottled water to fill Healthy Snack Bags for our friends at Daily Bread Ministries.

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

On Rally Day, September 7:

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

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

Suggested items to donate for our Healthy Snack Bags:

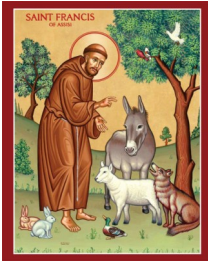
Bottled Water
Beef jerky
Applesauce or fruit cups
Fruit snacks
Granola bars
Small packages of cookies, rice Krispie treats, goldfish, etc
Individually wrapped mints

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

We are hoping to fill 100+ bags, so please donate what you can.
Please make sure items are individually wrapped, and
bring them to the Narthex **now through September 1st**. Thank you!

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

Save these dates!



Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi

Blessing of Pets

Sunday, October 5th

10:00 PM in the Social Hall

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

Please see full article on page 8



Worship Liturgies of Word, Sacrament and Healing

in observance of

The Feast Day of Saint Luke

Evangelist and Physician

Sunday, October 12th at 8:30 and 10:00 AM



The Annual Congregation Meeting

of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

October 19, 2025 / 9:30 AM between the liturgies

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

Stay tuned for more details.

Reformation Sunday

October 26th

Bishop Melissa Stoller preaching

Bible Presentation to First Graders

NOTICE FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

In an effort to streamline and help manage envelope costs, we are updating our process for managing offerings. We are asking each giving unit to choose which option matches their giving method:

_____ Paper Envelopes

_____ E-Offering

_____ Other (such as giving through an IRA, Charitable Trust, etc.)

Name:

Address:

If you choose one of the options other than paper envelopes you will no longer receive paper envelopes.

All offerings will continue to be recorded and quarterly giving statements will be sent. You will simply not have an envelope number associated with your name.

If you no longer have a paper envelope and you want to make an offering by check or cash during the year, for flowers or Daily Bread Ministries for example, simply use an envelope from the pews and specify what the offering is for.

This change to the offering system will be effective starting January 2026. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Financial Secretary, Allan Copenheaver at allancope@yahoo.com or call me at 412-563-6865.

Please choose the option you prefer and place this form in the offering plate or return the church office. Thank you for your help with this project.



I would like you to consider participating in a our online giving designed to simplify weekly giving in our congregation.

Electronic giving will enable every household or individual to make their church offering using electronic funds transfer or credit card. You may already be using online bill pay for your mortgage, car payment, or insurance premium through an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account. Many of you also have used your credit cards to purchase goods online through Amazon, eBay, or a number of other sites.

We have teamed up with myEoffering to enable you to use the same process to give your offering electronically from your bank account, credit or debit cards.

There is no cost to you for this new giving option. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue uninterrupted.

You can participate in the electronic giving program immediately. Just visit our church website and look for the "Donate Now" button.

Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.



A PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY September 1, 2024



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

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



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

Columbarium-South Chancel Wall

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

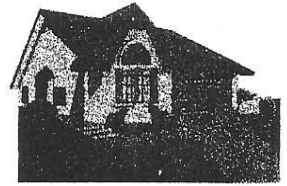
The cost of each niche is \$1,000 for internment of a single individual, and \$1,500 for the internment of two individuals.

Please contact the church office
to indicate your interest.



*The South Chancel Wall
Columbarium was completed
July 2022*

Nurturing Faith in the Home



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

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

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

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

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

7 Goals For Nurturing Faith In The Home

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

WHEN DOES CATECHISM BEGIN?

Reversing the Trend

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

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

Teaching faith includes...

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

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

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

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

With love for Christ and everyone,

Pastor Doug Heagy





SEPTEMBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2 12-2:30 ESL	3 9-2:30 ESL 4:00 Farmer's Market 7:00 Choir Practice	4 10:00 Bible Study 12-2:30 ESL	5	6
7 Pentecost 13 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School Begins 10:00 Rally Day 11:00 100th Anniversary Celebration	8 9-2:30 ESL 7:00 Bible Study	9 12-2:30 ESL 4:30 Level 1 Catechetics	10 9-2:30 ESL 3:30 Level 2 Catechetics 4:00 Farmer's Market 7:00 Choir Practice	11 10:00 Bible Study 12-2:30 ESL	12	13
14 Pentecost 14 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School	15 9-2:30 ESL 7:00 Bible Study	16 12-2:30 ESL 4:30 Level 1 Catechetics	17 9-2:30 ESL 3:30 Level 2 Catechetics 4:00 Farmer's Market 7:00 Choir Practice	18 10:00 Bible Study 12-2:30 ESL	19	20
21 Pentecost 15 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting	22 9-2:30 ESL 7:00 Bible Study	23 12-2:30 ESL 4:30 Level 1 Catechetics	24 9-2:30 ESL 3:30 level 2 Catechetics 4:00 Farmer's Market 7:00 Choir Practice	25 10:00 Bible Study 12-2:30 ESL	26	27
28 Pentecost 16 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Liturgy 8:30 Live Virtual Liturgy 10:00 Sunday School 4:30 Centennial Concert of Vocal & Instrumental Music	29 9-2:30 ESL 7:00 Bible Study	30 12-2:30 ESL 4:30 Level 1 Catechetics				30





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

2 "Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:1-2). Pray that our fears, prejudices and ideologies will not prevent us from showing love, respect and hospitality to one another — friends, family and strangers alike.

3 Suicide Prevention Month Pray for our neighbors and siblings in Christ who feel lonely, depressed and hopeless, that they will find compassion, support and spiritual renewal in times of darkness and suffering. Ask the Spirit to inspire and guide our care, support and counsel for those who are contemplating suicide, and for those who grieve the loss of someone to suicide.

4 Give thanks for the faithful service and leadership of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Pray that her faith, gifts and commitment will continue to inspire us to work for justice and peace, to love and serve our neighbors, and to share the good news of Jesus Christ in a world yearning for hope and renewal.

5 "Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments" (Psalm 112:1). Pray that we will find joy and guidance in the ways and commandments of God and be inspired by God's wisdom, love for humanity and concern for those who suffer.

6 The 2025 Churchwide Assembly has elected the Rev. Yehiel Curry to serve as the next presiding bishop of the ELCA. Pray that the Spirit will strengthen his faith, gifts and wisdom as he leads our church in its mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ, reflect God's abundant love and mercy for the world, and serve our neighbors in need.

7 "God's work. Our hands." *Sunday* ELCA congregations join together today for our annual day of service, celebrating that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Pray for service activities around the country that unite people, ecumenical partners and community agencies as we serve our neighbors in need, strengthen our communities and demonstrate God's love.

8 Pray for the resolution of international conflicts that cause suffering, violence, mistrust, injustice, economic crises and political instability. Ask God to forgive us for sometimes playing a role in these conflicts, intentional or not.

9 Pray for our missionaries in Latin America and the Caribbean and for the Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers serving in Mexico, Argentina and Uruguay, that the Spirit will nurture their faith as they accompany global companions in ministries that include education, immigration and pastoral leadership.

10 Pray for faith in the ways and thoughts of God, which stretch beyond our comprehension and imagination yet stir awe and devotion.

11 Give thanks for deacons in congregations and faith-based organizations. Praise God for their gifts and service in a variety of ministries, including camps, nursing, music, education, administration, social service, and youth and family ministries.

12 Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our discipline so that we might better study and reflect on the Word of God and its significance in our daily lives.

13 Give thanks and pray for volunteers of all ages and abilities who serve in congregations, outdoor ministries, Lutheran social ministry organizations, ELCA Global Mission, Lutheran Disaster Response, Mission Builders and community social services.

14 Pray that we will consider thoughtfully the wide-ranging impact of proclaiming that "all are welcome" in our congregations and the church.

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

16 Take time to pray for the people and situations that first came to mind when you awoke this morning.

17 Give thanks and praise to God, who shows us mercy and patience, knows our gifts and stirs within us meaning and purpose for our baptismal journey.

18 Pray for ELCA World Hunger leaders, congregations and ministry partners participating in the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering in Columbus, Ohio, that their sharing, planning and networking will enrich their work to address hunger and its root causes in our communities and the world.

19 "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises" (Psalm 98:4). Join your siblings in Christ in prayers of praise and thanksgiving for our amazing God!

20 Pray for Palestinians in Gaza, its surrounding areas and wherever they have fled in search of shelter and relief from war. Pray that the devastation and suffering will end and that leaders will commit to peaceful solutions, reconciliation, mutual respect and the rebuilding of communities that can thrive.

21 Remember in prayer those recovering from devastating floods and grieving the loss of loved ones and neighbors. Give thanks for the work we do through Lutheran Disaster Response to respond to urgent needs, give emotional and spiritual care, support long-term recovery and restore the vitality of communities. Ask God to strengthen and bless our partnerships with synods, congregations, local relief agencies and ecumenical relief programs.

22 First day of fall "In this great and strange creation, with a breath God gives us birth: born of soil to live as stewards, called to love and serve the earth" ("Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom," *ACS* 1064). Sing praise to God for creating and entrusting to our care the earth, its natural resources and the inspiring beauty of all living things, including humankind.

23 Pray for church leaders as they gather for the Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference in New Orleans to study and reflect on stewardship and to equip themselves for cultivating generosity in congregations. Give thanks for how God works through this partnership with the Presbyterian Foundation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the ELCA's stewardship and generosity team.

24 Praise God that our church gathers and nurtures the gifts of so many through congregations, synods and special ministries to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, care for neighbors in need, equip and encourage one another, and invite all to experience the blessings of being valued members of faith communities.

25 Remember in prayer those who are fighting cancer or experiencing a wide range of emotions upon receiving a cancer diagnosis. Pray that we and our faith communities will offer steadfast support, care and encouragement to them and their families.

26 Pray that all people will know the love, peace and wisdom that comes from God, made real to us through the birth, life, suffering, death and resurrection of our true savior, Jesus Christ.

27 "Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both," wrote Lutheran theologian Karl Barth (1886-1968). "But interpret newspapers from your Bible." Ask God to help us attend to our communities, nation and world, and remember that our faith in Jesus Christ calls us to foster peace, justice, love, forgiveness and healing among all people.

28 The story of Lazarus and the rich man in the gospels of Luke and John reminds us of God's love and concern for those who suffer poverty, illness and neglect. Pray that we will embrace all people as neighbors who deserve respect, compassion, love and inclusion.

29 Michael and All Angels Ask the Spirit to help us be aware of God's activity in the world and to strengthen our faith when we are perplexed by the mysteries of God's ways and the presence of angels and spiritual beings who serve as God's messengers.

30 Ask God to bless and guide the work of the ELCA Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment program, informed by the unique voices and experiences of people across race, ethnicity, ability, class, sexuality and age. Pray for the advancement of gender justice in the church and society — justice grounded in Scripture, Lutheran theology and people of all gender identities working together.

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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

Rally Day & ELCA ELCA Snack Bag Service Project Sunday, September 7

100th Year Anniversary “Super Celebration” on our Campus

Rally Day September 7, 2025

101st Sunday School Year begins,

Social Ministries Project for All,

Special Activities, Food, and Surprises

All Activities begin at 11 am.

Please sign up in the Narthex or call the Church office.

A Centennial Concert of Vocal & Instrumental Music Celebrating 100 years of Faith & Outreach in Mt. Lebanon, the Region, and Beyond

Sunday September 28, 2025 – 4:30 pm

In our Sanctuary – With Special Guests