

the Voice parish newsletter

WELCOME, CHRISTOPHER KEENAN!



On behalf of our Congregational, Search, and Executive Committees, I'm pleased to announce Christopher Keenan our new Music Director & Organist effective August 1, 2022. Christopher became the finalist from a slate of 12 applicants. He'll begin in worship on Sunday, August 14.

A native of Franklin, TN, Chris received his Bachelor of Music degree (Organ Performance) in 2012 from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. He studied under John Walker, former president of the American Guild of Organists and one-time Music Director & Organist at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. Chris then earned a doctorate in Music and Organ Performance in 2016 at the University of Texas. He's performed recitals throughout America and Europe, including Auferstehungskirche, Leipzig; Freiburg Cathedral; Westminster Cathedral; Bach Church, Arnstadt; Portsmouth Cathedral; Albert Hall, Nottingham; and Princeton University Chapel.

After completing his doctoral studies, Chris became Director of Music & Broadcasting at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC. During his time there, an interest in medicine grew by his service as a Firefighter / EMT-B at Pine Ridge Fire Rescue in Summerville, SC. Christopher completed remedial studies in science and gained admission to the University of Pittsburgh Medical School where he'll begin this fall working toward an M.D. degree. He'll serve with us during his time in Pittsburgh. We look forward to his music ministry!

Special thanks to Cindy Brown, Chair of our Search Committee, and to all who participated in the search and employment process.

A blessed summer to all, including Chris, as we transition together!

In Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy

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



July, 2022

From the Stewardship Committee

Stewardship of our bodies

Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. -Genesis 2:7

If not for the breath of God alive within each of us, our physical bodies would be just 100-plus pounds of dead water and minerals. Intricate vehicles that carry us through our years, our bodies teem with the holy life that God gives us.

As sacred vessels of life, our bodies deserve the best care and attention we can possibly give them. As a culture, though, we aren't doing a very good job of it.

Though the United States spends more on medical care than any other nation, we consistently rank low in overall health. Bloomberg's 2020 Global Health Rankings put us at Number 35. (The top five: Spain, Italy, Iceland, Japan, and Switzerland. Canada was 16.) A prime reason is obesity, which affects 43 percent of Americans and contributes to a wide range of chronic health conditions.

Of course, genetics plays a big role in everyone's health, and it's one of the factors over which we have no control. But there are a lot of variables we can work with to increase our health and take care of the sacred life-bearing vessels God has given us.

For the month of July, pray for God's guidance to help you care for your body. Consult your doctor and read up on diet, exercise, and stress reduction. Ask the Holy Spirit to give insight and wisdom to learn what to do, and then the courage and discipline to follow through.

--Rob Blezard

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SUMMERTIME BIBLE STUDIES

NATURE STORIES

IN THE BIBLE AND HYMNS



Participants will discuss nature stories as they appear in the Bible and hymns. All are welcome. Bring a friend. Pastor Heagy will lead the studies on Monday nights and Thursday mornings. Bibles will be provided or bring your own.

Monday / 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

July 4 (No class)

July 11

July 17

July 24

Thursday / 10:00 AM-11:15 AM

July 7

July 14 (No class)

July 21

July 28

NEW COLUMBARIUM - South Chancel Wall

As previously announced and approved by our council, we have signed a contract with *Armento Incorporated* of Buffalo, NY, to manufacture a new 48-niche columbarium, identical to the existing north chancel wall columbarium. Installation on the south wall takes place **this month**.

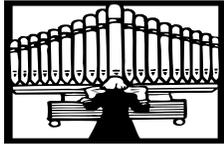
Interment in the columbarium is open to church members and their extended families, and the specific policy covering the use of and payments for the columbarium niches is available upon request from the church office.

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.

Spaces remain available.

Please contact the church office to indicate your interest.





MUSICAL MUSINGS

Most wonderful people of Mt. Lebanon Lutheran,

Words fail me when I try to express my appreciation for the outpouring of thanks and good wishes that I was blest with last Sunday. As embarrassed as I was by Pastor's words at the beginning, I was also profoundly moved. And to have so many regular singers plus returning ones join us was a treat beyond belief. Not to mention the contributions of Micah, Scott, and Mitch!

The reception – thanks so much Jeff McGraw, Michelle Schocker, Tom & Lyn Ultsch, Debbie Lutz, Sara Dougherty, Cindy Brown, and many others – food and beverages galore and a perfect time to greet so many people! I could not have asked for more – and then I opened the envelope with the check. Wow – generous does not begin to describe it. I'm not given names, but thanks to all who contributed to that gift. It was way more than I deserved.

I will miss you all and think of you as you begin a new chapter with your new musician. You will be in very capable hands, and I urge you to give him your support and encouragement just as you have given me over the years. Our paths will cross again I'm sure and till then, accept my humble thanks for all you have meant to me.

Blessings,
Larry Allen

Thank You ♥ to all who assisted with the planning and preparation of the Farewell Reception for Larry Allen. What a wonderful event and a great celebration of Larry's many years of service to Mount Lebanon United Lutheran.

A special thank you to the following individuals:

Cindy Brown and Sara Dougherty.

Dave and Deb Hazlett who donated, provided, and set up the tent.

Patrick Snyder and Debbie Lutz for their assistance on the day of the event.

Michelle Schocker for her help with the caterer, Bistro to Go.

Pete Schocker for delivering and donating the use of the high top tables.

*Thank
you* 



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

July 3	Time after Pentecost
	Isaiah 6:10-14 Psalm 66:1-9 Galatians 6:7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 10	Time after Pentecost
	Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:1-10 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37
July 17	Time after Pentecost
	Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 15 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42
July 24	Time after Pentecost
	Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138 Colossians 2:6-15 Luke 11:1-13
July 31	Time after Pentecost
	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Psalm 49:1-12 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21

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



WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

Oh Christ, bless and uphold all who are in pain or sickness this day. Teach us how to be alongside them and to share in their distress deeply in our prayers. Make us open to them and give us courage to suffer with them, that in so doing, we share with you the suffering of the world. Especially bring healing into the lives of: Craig Elias; Bishop George Bashore; Deb Cecotti; Scott Halapin; Patty Pavlak; Kalie Radigan; Amy Budner; Cheryl Poenisch; Elizabeth Keim; Rian Dankert; the family of Annabelle Santos; Paul Young; Janice Seigle

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the July issue of the August *Voice* are to be submitted by Sunday, July 17. Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.

SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: JULY, 2022

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

July 3-Crucifer

8:30 Easton Darcy
10:00 Gabriel Provins

July 10-Crucifer

8:30 Addy Wetzel
10:0 Nico Provins

July 17- Crucifer

8:30 Dylan Snyder
10:00 Luke Dwulit

July 24-Crucifer

8:30 Emma Gelston
10:00 Owen O'Brien

July 31-Crucifer

8:30 Milo Bucher
10:00 Henry Keplar

Congratulations 2022 Graduates!



Hunter Rheinfrank graduated from Mt. Lebanon High School. He will attend Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. He plans to major in Political Science and a minor in Economics.

*On your Graduation , May you sense God's will in your life
as you seek His guidance for the future.*

We will continue to publish graduate news in the August newsletter. Send the information ASAP.

Please call the church office with any changes to the prayer list. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month, unless a request has been made to add, delete, or keep the names as listed. All you need do is call the church office and let us know.



Food Pantry

Please remember while shopping during these hot summer days, the ministry of the Food Bank at St. Michael and All Angels' Lutheran in Spring Garden on Pittsburgh's North-side with your contributions of non-perishable food, cleaning and laundry products and monetary donations. When making monetary donations, please make your check payable to *Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church* and designate your donation for St. Michael's Food Pantry [Your donation will be recorded and then forwarded.] or to the ELCA World Hunger ministries using a *designated gift envelope* in your pew. Items may be brought any Sunday. Thank you to Clarence Gourley for making the monthly delivery to St. Michael's.

Daily Bread Outreach Meal

July 17



The meal with the poor in July will be a cookout including hot dogs, hamburgers, chips & soda. Monetary donations are being accepted. Volunteers will be needed to serve the meal. Please see sign up sheet in the Narthex in the coming weeks. Thank you for your support



"SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP"

All are invited for a time of fellowship between worship liturgies.

Enjoy food, beverage, and conversing
with each other in the Foyer or
Front Lawn (weather permitting).

Hope to see you there.



The Evangelism Committee is looking for volunteers for coffee prep and clean up - Sponsorship—and preparing the sweet healthy treats for this time together.



Please see the sign up chart on the bulletin board in the hallway by the Narthex. Thank you.

Is There A Summer Season?

To speak of the Sundays after Pentecost as “the summer season” is, admittedly, an artificial construction. The Church Year does not have a “summer” season, yet many of the lectionary images, festivals and liturgical texts of summer contain images that correspond with these months as they are experienced in the Northern Hemisphere.

And as the summer progresses, the harvests take many forms. By paying attention to the natural growth cycle, we are attached to the changes of nature and can also anticipate the life of the liturgical cycle.

And while “paying attention” is part of reading the signs of the times, it may appear merely mechanical. But much of this year’s lectionary connects what is happening in nature with what is happening [or supposed to be happening] in our hearts.

As the Torah calls for the sacrifice of the first fruits, why don’t we acknowledge the various harvests [snow peas, berries, corn, squash, watermelon] that trace across the summer? Even the most urban of our parishes are not far removed from agriculture, even if the agriculture is micro-farming in window boxes.

In short, the environment of this season is ourselves and our watching the change of life in our midst. Our festal cycle has a list of heroes and heroines during the summer—evangelists Mark and Matthew and apostles Philip and James, Peter and Paul, and Bartholomew. We remember the early followers: Barnabas and Mary Magdalene, as well as the birth of John the Baptist and Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

While the experience of the first half of the church’s year of grace has been intensely an experience of becoming, the “green season” after Pentecost [summer] [ordinary time] is a season to be aware of just who we have become.

And in remembering who we have become and how we have come to gather in God’s House and Who has guided us, we are to remember how we should live as God’s children.



Mt. Lebanon Farmers' Market

[sponsored by the Lions' Club]

Wednesdays 4:00—7:00 PM

Third Quarter Editions of Christ in Our Home, 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 prayer life.



Summer Camp is on this summer at Camp Lutherlyn!

Check out all the programs, schedules, events & registration info at <https://www.lutherlyn.com/>



Thank You Gardeners

The lovely red and white petunias, (tributes donated for Pentecost Sunday), were planted in the front flowerbeds by Diane and Larry Dattilo, Sara Dougherty, Azmuddin Baraki, Monica Aravitch, Grayson and Debbie Lutz, and Cindy Brown. Thank you for your gardening expertise to beautify the church property! Special thanks also to Don Snyder for preparing and mulching the flowerbeds.



Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School July 11-15, 2022, 9am-noon

“Give us this day our daily bread.” Matthew 6:11



VBS Volunteers Needed—Youth and Adults

During VBS week, July 11-15, we need:

- Crew leaders & assistants *(teens and older)*
- Help at Registration tent *(Mon. morning)*
- Setup/Take-down Tents and traffic barriers *(before and after VBS)*

Prior to VBS week we need:

- Help with decorating & setup June 29-July 10– various days, weekday, evening, & weekend shifts. This involves hanging posters and paper chains, etc.

Paper Chains due by Sunday, July 3

- Many thanks to those making colorful paper chains for decorations. Please bring them to the Social Hall by Sunday, July 3 so that we can start hanging them.

After VBS week:

- Help breakdown set & cleanup, flexible time shifts—please let us know your available dates.

Note: **Teens can earn up to 15 hours of Community Service!** Plus, it's a lot of fun!

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

VBS items needed to borrow:

(for week of July 11-15)

- Picnic table, outdoor chairs
- Chef's hat
- Plastic food props
- CD players (boom boxes)

VBS Items to Donate:

- Paper towel tubes
- Bright construction paper ~ and Volunteers needed to make **paper chains** for **decorations** – **due July 3**

-Snack items:

- Lemonade mix
- Cups, napkins
- Pre-packaged servings of **nut-free snacks**—

Please check labels very carefully to make sure the snacks do not share equipment with nuts, tree nuts or sesame seeds. See list of allergy-safe examples in separate article in this issue, as well as on the bulletin board.

VBS Snacks Donations Needed:

Please help us provide our Vacation Bible School kids with fun, allergy-safe snacks. To keep everyone Covid-safe, snacks will be served outdoors and will include pre-packaged snacks. **Please check ingredient labels very carefully to make sure they do not include nuts, tree nuts or sesame seeds.** Some examples of allergy-safe snacks include, but are not limited to:

- Rice Crispy Treats
- Goldfish crackers
- Nutri-Grain Bars
- Skinny Pop Popcorn
- Quaker Chewy Dipp's Chocolate Granola Bars
- Frito Lay Variety Pack Chip bags
- Nature's Bakery Fig Bars

Many of these products can be purchased in bulk at Costco or Sam's Club, which is good news since **we will need at least 300 snacks!**

We will also need:

- Lemonade Mix
- Napkins
- Small cups

Please bring snacks to the Social Hall Kitchen, and label them VBS. Thank you in advance for your generosity! This helps us keep VBS affordable for families to participate.

*In-person **Sunday School Classes** resume on Rally day, **September 11, 2022.** Look for the Sunday School registration form in the August Voice Newsletter. We are recruiting new teachers and assistants. For more information or to volunteer, please contact MBTrivilino@verizon.net*



Bible

Difficulty: Medium

V	V	S	A	V	I	O	R	G	O
P	S	N	A	M	O	R	N	N	Z
W	M	P	V	I	L	B	Y	I	F
N	W	K	B	U	Y	F	E	K	W
H	V	B	K	J	A	M	E	S	N
I	A	E	L	M	T	H	O	C	O
R	J	K	O	K	S	I	V	O	A
K	U	O	R	R	W	U	T	C	C
I	D	Q	D	A	V	Z	Q	U	T
K	E	A	N	M	N	H	O	J	S

ACTS
JAMES
JOHN

JUDE
KING
LORD

LUKE
MARK
RABBI

ROMANS
SAVIOR
TITUS



Vacation Bible School

Ages: 4 and older

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

Monday - Friday, 9:00 - noon

July 11-15, 2022

Suggested donation: \$10.00/child or \$18/family*

REGISTRATION

Family Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Emergency Contact Name & Phone: _____

Persons authorized to pick up children: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade Completed: _____

Known Allergies/Special Needs: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade Completed: _____

Known Allergies/Special Needs: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade Completed: _____

Known Allergies/Special Needs: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade Completed: _____

Known Allergies/Special Needs: _____

My children have my permission to attend & participate in MLULC VBS per Terms on page 2

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

I would like to help with VBS (adults & teens age 12 & up) _____

Please also sign the back side of this page.

For registration purposes: Age Group/ Crew: _____ Amount: _____

*Scholarships available if needed.

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School
July 11-15, 2022

Registration Form, *Continued from page 1*

Participation Agreement:

	YES	NO
My children have my permission to attend VBS at MLULC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VBS staff are permitted to provide First Aid to my kids if needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My kids have my permission to be photographed for the church slide show & bulletin board:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My kids have my permission to have their photos appear on our Church website. Children's names will not appear.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please note: We will follow health and safety guidelines and practices of our Church Council.

Please read and sign below:

Parents/guardians agree not to send their children to VBS if the children are sick or have fever.

LIABILITY RELEASE: In consideration of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church allowing child(ren) listed on this 2-page form to participate in Vacation Bible School activities, I, the undersigned, do hereby release, forever discharge, and agree to hold harmless Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church, its directors, employees, volunteers, and agents from any and all liability, claims or demands for accidental personal injury, sickness or death, as well as property damage and expenses, of any nature whatsoever which may be incurred by the undersigned and the above child(ren) while involved in Vacation Bible School. Furthermore, on behalf of my minor child(ren), I hereby assume all risk of accidental personal injury, sickness, death, damage, and expense as a result of participation in activities involved therein. As well as releasing the child(ren), if necessary, for transportation to and from the Vacation Bible School location, I, the undersigned, do hereby release, forever discharge, and agree to hold harmless Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church, its directors, employees, volunteers, and agents from any and all liability, claims or demands for accidental personal injury in the process of transportation.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Social Ministries and VBS Service Project

Healthy Snack Bags for Daily Bread Ministries

The VBS Service Project runs from July 1-15, and it involves Youth and the entire Congregation! We are collecting food and bottled water to fill healthy snack bags for our friends at Daily Bread Ministries.

VBS kids will decorate large lunch bags during Craft time.

Parishioners, as well as VBS families are asked to donate food items from the list below that we will use to fill these colorful bags.

Youth will work to fill the Snack Bags during and/or after VBS on July 15.

These Healthy Snack Bags will be distributed to our friends at Daily Bread Ministries on July 17.

Suggested items to donate for our Healthy Snack Bags:

- Bottled Water
- Granola bars or healthy snack bars, etc
- Applesauce or fruit cups
- Spoons
- Beef jerky
- Fruit snacks
- Cheese or peanut butter crackers (Lance or other brands)
- Chips/snack bags
- Cookies
- Individually wrapped mints
- Rice Krispies treats or other snack



The need for food at Daily Bread Ministries is greater than ever. [Our VBS theme Bible verse this year is “Give us this day our Daily Bread” Matthew 6:11](#) So this service project is a perfect opportunity for our VBS kids, youth and congregation to show God’s love by sharing with others in our 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 from July 1-15, or to the VBS Giving Market July 11-15**

Thank you!





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





I would like you to consider participating in 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.



July 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Pentecost 4 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship VBS Set-up	4 Happy 4th of July Office Closed	5 VBS Set-Up	6 VBS Set-Up	7 Bible Study— 10:00 Nature in the Bible VBS Set-Up	1 VBS Set-up Social Ministries Snack Bag Service Project Begins	2 VBS Set-up
10 Pentecost 5 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship VBS Set-up	11 Vacation Bible School 9:00am—12 pm Bible Study-7:00 Nature in the Bible	12 Vacation Bible School 9:00 am—12 pm 	13 Vacation Bible School 9:00 am—12 pm 4:00 Farmers Market	14 Vacation Bible School 9:00 am—12 pm 	15 Vacation Bible School 9:00 am—12 pm Snack Bag Service Project Concludes	16
17 Pentecost 6 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 2:00 Daily Bread Outreach Meal	18 Bible Study-7:00 Nature in the Bible	19	20	21 Bible Study— 10:00 Nature in the Bible	22	23
24 Pentecost 7 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 11:15 Council Meeting	25 Bible Study— 7:00 Nature in the Bible	26	27	28 Bible Study— 10:00 Nature in the Bible	29	30





1 Gun violence is the leading cause of death among children and youth in our nation today. Pray that we might overcome the feelings of indifference and impotence bred by the tragedy, trauma, complexity and frequency of gun violence. Pray that the Spirit will turn us toward Scripture, the teachings of Jesus and one another for the strength, wisdom and courage needed to change our laws and culture for the sake of safeguarding our communities and society.

2 Pray that we might notice and take to heart small acts of hope and kindness, and that these might renew our faith amid world events that inspire anger and despair.

3 "The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go" (Luke 10:1). Respond to God's call that we pool our gifts and resources to share the good news of Jesus Christ, serve our neighbors in need and bear hope, peace and equity into the world.

4 *Independence Day* Give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in the United States and for all those who work to sustain them in our behalf. Pray that we might value our freedom and use it to benefit and uplift all people, especially those excluded, forgotten and oppressed.

5 "Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!" (Psalm 66:3). We can never proclaim too often God's acts of mercy, redemption and creativity throughout world history.

6 Give thanks to God for deacons, our siblings in Christ who serve as ministers of Word and Service. Pray for their ministries in congregations, synods, social ministry organizations, chaplaincy ministries, seminaries, colleges, universities and ELCA Global Mission — wherever their diverse gifts are needed in our church and society.

7 Pray for the people and communities, especially in southern Mexico, that suffered devastation and loss of life from Hurricane Agatha.

8 "So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith" (Galatians 6:10). Pray that our faith and gratitude for God's love might move us to care for people — in our communities of faith and everywhere else — who face difficult situations.

9 Remember our neighbors in Ethiopia and Ukraine who are displaced in their own countries and hope to resettle in their home communities or elsewhere. Pray that their faith, their hope and the support of those accompanying them will sustain them through difficult, wearisome and dangerous times.

10 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). Pray that our love for God will be mirrored daily by our acts of love and concern for our neighbor, especially those who are needy, suffering and passed over.

11 Give thanks that through the work and witness of our global companions and ELCA Global Mission, we might proclaim God's love and presence in the world, build relationships, renew and transform lives, stir hope and respond to the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors.

12 Pray that the Spirit will instill in us appreciation and concern for ELCA congregations and ministries across the country as well as the other faith communities of our siblings in Christ. Ask God to help us affirm one another, encourage one another and share generously our assets and wisdom for doing God's work in the world.

13 Thank God for our special relationship with The United Methodist Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 2009. Pray for the church's members and leaders, that together they will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these challenging times.

14 Pray for musicians and worship leaders participating in Augsburg Fortress Summer Music Clinics. Give thanks for their unique gifts that enrich our worship life, inspire faith, facilitate opportunities for using our own gifts and help us express ourselves to God.

15 Pray that the Spirit will soften our hardness and self-reliance and create in us a receptive and eager spirit as we study God's ways, seek wisdom and truth, and learn from one another how to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

16 Pray for the ELCA Interim Ministry Association and Lutheran Transitional Ministry Association, which train and support pastors and interim leaders for serving congregations in times of transition, vacancy and discernment.

17 What distractions in your life draw you away from being mindful of God's presence and activity in the world? Pray that the Spirit will help us refocus our attention on God's ever-present grace, the work to which God is calling us and the needs and laments of people around us.

18 Pray for the worship leaders and church musicians gathered for Lutheran Summer Music, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians' annual conference at Valparaiso University in Indiana. Ask that their gifts will be strengthened, that their imaginations will be stirred and that they will develop new skills for working with all generations.

19 Pray that, throughout life, we might understand and remain faithful to the ways of God — humility, persistent love, and forgiveness of others. Pray that God will be patient with our weaknesses and guide us back when we stumble or stray from these paths.

20 Give thanks for the work we do together across all expressions of our church — congregations, synods and the church wide organization. Pray that we might value and draw upon the unity and strength we have in Christ and that, when we experience conflict or disappointment, we show grace and humility toward one another, grounding ourselves once more in our bond as children of God, siblings in Christ.

21 Ask God to help us comprehend that we have the ability, wisdom and resources to address the root causes of poverty and hunger in the world — especially when we work together and exercise generosity.

22 Praise God for the beauty and complexity of the universe that stirs our awe, imagination and appreciation, and for a creative power that stretches beyond our understanding.

23 God's persistent, undeserved grace and mercy restore us every day. Praise and thank God!

24 Ask the Spirit to reassure us of God's loving concern and attentiveness, especially when we feel the burden of thinking our prayers need to be worded perfectly and meet the expectations of others.

25 Pray for pastors, church musicians, artists and lay leaders participating in the Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts, sponsored by St. Olaf College in Minnesota, as they explore how the power of imagination can change, challenge and inspire churches responding to COVID-19 and structural racism.

26 Give thanks for Scripture, the creeds, Lutheran confessional writings and the ELCA Confession of Faith, which provide a foundation for our Christian faith, practice and witness and give expression to our relationship with Jesus Christ, the risen son of God and savior of humanity.

27 Remember in prayer those confined in our jails, prisons and correctional facilities. Pray that they will be treated justly and humanely, be renewed by the good news of Jesus Christ, and find hope and strength in God's love and mercy. Pray for the Spirit to help us extend our hospitality, acceptance and support to people previously incarcerated as they do the challenging work of building new lives in our communities.

28 Give thanks for musicians and artists who, through their creative gifts and work, proclaim the gospel, inspire our faith and convey the experiences, emotions and needs of humankind.

29 Remember in prayer our neighbors who struggle financially and live with the uncertainty of how they will support and care for themselves and their families. Pray that the Spirit will inspire us to respond with respect for their dignity and to affirm our interdependence as children of God.

30 With humility and joyful hearts, give thanks for God's steadfast love, which sustains and strengthens us through the twists and turns of our baptismal journey.

31 Pray that we might find identity, value, purpose and hope in God and not in accumulating short-lived wealth, possessions and power.

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The Reverend Kurt Kusserow

Bishop

Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

The Reverend Douglas M. Heagy

Senior Pastor

Mr. Larry Allen

Director of Music and Organist Emeritus

Mrs. Kris Malia

Parish Secretary

Michael Eck

Sexton

Vacation Bible School

Come join us this summer for:

Food Truck Party

July 11-15, 2022

9 am-12 pm

For ages 4—and up



A week filled with bible stories, games, crafts, and much more!

“Give us this day our daily bread.” Matthew 6:11

Register online at <https://mtlebanonlutheranchurch.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

Or with the Registration form in this issue.

Contact MBTrivilino@verizon.net or call the church office at 412-563-0300.