

the *Voice* parish newsletter

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

VBS had a Food Truck theme this year. The Bible stories were about God’s gift of food. In one story, people hoarded food. Life, however, is about more than food. We’re made for relationships with God and others. Saint Augustine said, *“Our hearts are restless, O God, until they find their rest in thee.”*

The intersection of science and faith is an area of interest to me. Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit (1686-1736), the temperature scale guy, was orphaned at 14 when his parents unknowingly consumed poisonous mushrooms. He departed Poland in grief, settled in Amsterdam, and took an interest in science. There’s a shrine (a plaque with a thermometer) in his honor in the Dutch church where his funeral was held. Galileo’s daughter, Virginia (1600-1634), spent the longest part of her brief life in a convent. She’s the subject of a novel based on letters she sent to her father during his distinguished career. Her love for Christ and her dad leap off the pages of these letters. Relationships matter. Family life matters.

Two diplomas arrived in the mail last month, sent by our sons who received them this spring. Life is moving on. While teaching children during VBS week, I remembered our children at VBS. They were first participants, then teen helpers, like many of the church youth. Our boys now live on opposite sides of the country. Our daughter lived in South America and Europe before returning to Pennsylvania. When I pray for them, I don’t pray for material things but for relationships to give their lives meaning. We lose our way in materialism. We never get lost keeping God and others first. We can learn to be grateful for daily bread more than for anything else. We are ever the wiser praying for daily bread for all.

When fall begins, hopefully more people will be in the sanctuary. We write our biographies by the choices we make. We’re made for more than food and the rat race. We’ve been made for relationships. Church is a good place to find God and friendships. *Our hearts are restless, O God, until they find their rest in thee.*

In Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy



August, 2022

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



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The snippets below, mostly from the Stewardship of Life Institute and Pastor Rob Blezard, are based on scripture we'll hear this month in church. They're provided to help us integrate the practice of stewardship into daily life. Use them for faithful living and giving.

Stewardship Snippets for August



Stewardship Snippet

August 7, 2022 (Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 19, Proper 14, Year C)

Luke 12:34 – “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Jesus continues his teaching about greed, resource management, and abundance by telling the crowd to sell their possessions and give alms. He reminds them that their treasure is the home for their hearts. Where is your heart's home? Have you placed your trust God's radical abundance?

Stewardship Snippet

August 14, 2022 (Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 20, Proper 15, Year C)

Hebrews 12:1 – Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

The insatiable desire for more clouds our vision and impedes faithful and fruitful living. Who has modeled faithful resource management in your life? May the witness of others provide hope and encouragement for you to “stay the course” and say NO to “the lie of more.”

Stewardship Snippet

August 21, 2022 (Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 21, Proper 16, Year C)

Luke 13:12 –When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.”

We don't know the exact diagnosis of the crippled woman, yet we know Jesus heals her and sets her free. Jesus desires to free us from all our dis-eases: crippling debt, misplaced priorities, mass consumerism, and all the related disordering of our lives caused by believing “the lie of more.” Are you ready and willing to be healed?

Stewardship Snippet

August 28, 2022 (Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 22, Proper 17, Year C)

Luke 14:7 –When Jesus noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

Jesus was in the house of a leader on the sabbath to eat a meal. All eyes were on Jesus, but his eyes were on the behavior in the room. All the invited guests were jockeying for the best seats at the table. Jesus is aware of our desires to be first or at least to move up a rung or two on the social ladder. What will it mean for us to move down the ladder? Do we have faith and courage to descend in order to serve? Think about what Jesus meant when he said, “Those who humble themselves

NEW COLUMBARIUM - South Chancel Wall

Our new columbarium has been installed. Special thanks to David and Nancy Haines for installing this beautiful, sacred place of solemn rest.

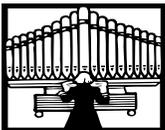
Interment in the columbarium is open to church members and their extended families, and the specific policy covering the use of and payments for the columbarium niches is available upon request from the church office.

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 August 2022

Anthony Rollett, ARCM, began organ studies at the age of 15 with Peter Ward Jones. While studying materials science at Clare College, Cambridge, he continued his organ studies with Gillian Weir and was a choral scholar in the chapel choir under John Rutter. He is currently Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, and is active as a substitute organist in the Pittsburgh area. We welcome him to the organ bench on August 7.

We welcome our new music director, **Dr. Christopher Keenan**, on August 1! His first Sunday with us will be August 14. A native of Franklin, TN, Chris holds performance degrees from Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University and the University of Texas. Following his doctoral studies in Texas, Chris served at Saint Michaels's Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC. We look forward to his music ministry.

Chris's arrival coincides with Pastor Heagy's vacation. Therefore, Pastor Bish will welcome Christ into the church on August 14. A reception to greet Chris will be held at a later date following Pastor Heagy's return.

Special thanks to Cindy Brown, who chaired the search committee, and to all who participated in the process of finding our new music director! By action of our council, Larry Allen has been honored with the title, Music Director and Organist Emeritus.

A Lutheran Prayer

Feelings come and feelings go,
And feelings are deceiving;
My warrant is the Word of God -
Naught else is worth believing.

Though all my heart should feel condemned
For want of some sweet token,
There is One greater than my heart
Whose Word cannot be broken.

I'll trust in God's unchanging Word
'Til soul and body sever,
For, though all things shall pass away
His Word shall stand forever!



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: AUGUST, 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

August 7-Crucifer

8:30 Henry Keplar

10:00 Jack O'Brien

August 14-Crucifer

8:30 Chase Lutz

10:00 Gigi Burket

August 21- Crucifer

8:30 Hayden Sinar

10:00 Cameron Mayer

August 28-Crucifer

8:30 Addison Mayer

10:00 Carter Lutz



The worship links to Facebook & YouTube 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

August 7	Time after Pentecost
	Genesis 15:1-6 Psalm 33:12-22 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40
August 14	Time after Pentecost
	Jeremiah 23:23-29 Psalm 82 Hebrews 11:29—12:2 Luke 12:49-56
August 21	Time after Pentecost
	Isaiah 58:9b-14 Psalm 103:1-8 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17
August 28	Time after Pentecost
	Proverbs 25:6-7 Psalm 112 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:7-14



Blessing of Backpacks....

Sunday, August 28, at the 8:30 and 10:00 worship liturgies. Our young people are invited to come forward for this "blessing".

In this way, we as a congregation recognize our children and youth as they begin a new school year.



Plan ahead!

Catechetical Classes Will Resume in September

Catechetical instruction in preparation for the Public Affirmation of Baptism, the rite also known as Confirmation, is scheduled to resume in September. This early notice will hopefully help both students and parents plan for the fall.

Level I classes will be Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 PM, beginning on September 8th. These classes focus on the Old and New Testaments. An orientation meeting for parents and new students will be held on Monday, August 29th at 7:00 p.m.

Level II classes will be Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30 PM, beginning September 6th. Level II classes cover Luther's *Small Catechism*, Lutheran theology, and organizational aspects of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Attendance at weekly class sessions, Sunday worship, and Sunday School are requirements. The full set of requirements, including others not listed here, will be given to students next month. All catechumens will be scheduled to serve at the Altar for worship liturgies. May 28, 2023 is the date for next year's Confirmation Sunday.

Questions with regard to participation in Catechetical Instruction should be directed to Pastor Doug or Sara Dougherty.

The development of the Christian life requires that it be cultivated in all of its dimensions: worship, study, prayer, service, stewardship, and witness.

THANK YOU, LECTORS!

We are grateful to our lectors who so willingly and beautifully read scripture at our worship services. Thank you to:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Neil Bucher | Cynthia Nellis |
| Peter Darcy | Jothan Parsons |
| Tom Dougherty | Elizabeth Rheinfrank |
| Gayle Homberg | April Snyder |
| Kate Mayberry | Patrick Snyder |
| Jeff McGraw | Rick Spickard |

Additional lectors are always needed. If you are able to serve, please contact Cindy Brown, 412-779-2020, cindysgb@icloud.com.



ONLINE GIVING

Is now available in association with

 myEoffering

www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

WHAT IS myEoffering?

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

WHY SHOULD I USE myEoffering?

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

HOW DOES IT HELP?

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

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

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



SCAN THIS
CODE WITH
YOUR MOBILE
DEVICE NOW





WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

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; Bishop George Bashore; Deb Cecotti; Scott Halapin; Patty Pavlak; Kalie Radigan; Amy Budner; Cheryl Poenisch; Elizabeth Keim; Rian Dankert; the family of Annabelle Santos; Aurora Schultz; Janice Seigle



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

Synod Assembly News

The actions of the 2022 Southwestern Synod Assembly have been posted on the bulletin board in the hallway of education building. Thank you to Pastor Doug & Cindy Brown for attending the Assembly.

RALLY Day will be September 11, 2022. This is the first day of **Sunday School**. Look for the registration form in this issue of the *Voice*. For more information or to volunteer contact MBTrivilino@verizon.net

Daily Bread Outreach Meal

September 11th will be the next opportunity to participate by providing food or volunteering to serve the meal. The menu will be



A sign up sheet will be in the narthex in the coming weeks to volunteer. Thank you to all who donate and volunteer to serve for this much needed social ministry!

SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022
2022 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Date and time to be announced in future Voice Newsletters.

Dear Council Members:

Please have your committee reports for the upcoming Congregational Meeting to the Church office by August 31. Thank you. ♥♥



Mt. Lebanon Farmers' Market
[sponsored by the Lions' Club]
Wednesdays 4:00—7:00 PM

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Monday Night Bible Study
Starting September
Thursday Morning Bible Study
Starting September
Stay tuned to next month's Voice or the Sunday bulletins for details!!

"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.

Vacation Bible School THANKS!

We had a fun week at **VBS Food Truck Party!** 55 kids had a great time with adventurous Bible stories, creative crafts, fun games, cool science experiments, yummy snacks, & awesome music! This year's service project was to collect food, decorate and fill 128 Healthy Snack Bags for the homeless served by Daily Bread Ministries.

We had 44 helpers volunteer their time and talents to help kids learn to trust God and help others. Many thanks to Music Director Hannah Morrison; dramatic Bible Storyteller Pastor Heagy; Crafts Leader Jessica Porter, with Lisa Honkala, Melodie Frankovitch, Jen Kennedy, Carol Vogely, Mary Sadowski, Glenn & Grace Reiner; Science Teachers Emma Gelston & Hayden Sinar; Snacks Leader Lyn Ultsch, with Karen Pfeil, Elaine McAuliffe & Laura Spickard; Games Leaders Luke Frankovitch, Jack O'Brien & Easton Darcy; Media/Tech Director/ Photographer Alyssa Gelston; Service Project Coordinator: Sara Dougherty; Puppeteer Delaney Graybill; Registrar Normajeane Graybill; Crew Leaders: Gabriel & Isa Provins, Ashim Rai, Kaitlyn & Julia Campagna, Deeva Keyrouz, Max & Claire Bruno, Milo Bucher, Mackenna Cercone, Katie Harpst, Quin O'Brien, Finn Darcy, Addy Wetzel, Anessa Donoghue; and Floating Volunteers: Jen Kennedy, Jen Cercone, Laura Tubbs, Henry Keplar, & Nico Provins.

Many thanks to all our decorators who turned our Social Hall into a Food Truck Party: Vedette & Eric Keplar, Claire & Max Bruno, Karen Pfeil, & Carol Vogely; and to all those who setup/and took down the many tents that make outdoor VBS possible: Alan Trivilino & the Graybill, Keplar, Frankovitch, & Cercone families. Thanks to Betsy's Ice Cream Food Truck for coming to serve the kids delicious treats! Thanks to congregational members for their prayers and contributions of VBS snacks, funds, craft items, decorating supplies, and food donations for our service project. Thanks also to Kris Malia for office support; Tom Ultsch & Don Snyder for traffic safety & custodial support; Alan Trivilino for yard banner hanging, and Pastor Doug for prayers and support. You all worked together to help kids learn to care for others and to thank and trust God to ***"Give us this day our Daily Bread" Matt. 6:11***

~Mary Beth Trivilino, VBS Director

Rally Day! Sunday School Starts September 11

Join us as we kick off our academic year! Students ages 4 and up—Come meet your teachers and classmates. The entire congregation is invited to participate in our Fellowship event to assemble Healthy Snack Bags for Daily Bread Ministries. This is our Day of Service for ELCA Gods' Work/Our Hands Sunday.

Schedule for September 11

8:30 – Early Worship Liturgy

9:35 am – Sunday School Families gather in Social Hall to decorate lunch bags and write blessings.

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

10:15 – Students and Teachers go to Classrooms for Lessons

11:00 – **Entire congregation is invited to Social Hall for a time of fellowship** and refreshments, to assemble the Healthy Snack Bags and write blessings.



Sunday School Teachers, Assistants and Substitutes Needed

Teachers, Assistants and Substitutes are needed for Sunday School. No experience necessary. The Curriculum is provided and is very easy to use. Team-teaching is an option for those who cannot teach every week.

Contact Mary Beth Trivilino at MBTrivilino@verizon.net or 412-343-1823 for more information or to volunteer. Thank you!

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran
In Person Sunday School 2022-2023 Student Registration and Information (Please Print)

Parents: _____
Address: _____
Family contact email address: _____
Phone Number [s]: _____ cell phone # _____
Child 1: _____ Date of birth: _____ Baptized? _____
September Grade and School: _____
Allergies / Special Needs: _____
Child 2: _____ Date of birth: _____ Baptized? _____
September Grade and School: _____
Allergies / Special Needs: _____
Child 3: _____ Date of birth: _____ Baptized? _____
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 add information for additional children in the family on a separate sheet of paper. Thank you.

NOTE: We will follow CDC Guidelines to keep the children safe.

*“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”*
Mark 10:14

Social Ministries and Rally Day Service Project

Healthy Snack Bags for Daily Bread Ministries

The ELCA marks September 11 as God's Work/Our Hands Sunday—a day of service among congregations throughout the country. Our Congregation's Service Project runs from now through September 11, 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 4.

On Rally Day, September 11:

*Sunday School kids and families will meet in the Social Hall before the first Sunday School class to decorate the lunch bags.

*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
- Individually wrapped mints
- Cheese or peanut butter crackers (Lance or other brands)

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 4**. 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*



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

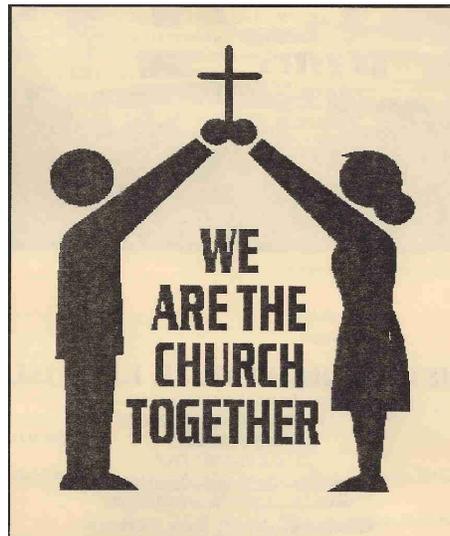
Electronic giving will enable every household or individual to make their church offering using electronic funds transfer or credit card. You may already be using online bill pay for your mortgage, car payment, or insurance premium through an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account.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

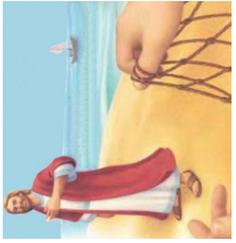
We have teamed up with myEoffering to enable you to use the same process to give your offering electronically from your bank account, credit or debit cards.

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.





August 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 4:00 Farmer's Market	4	5	6
7 Pentecost 9 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship	8	9	10 4:00 Farmer's Market	11	12	13
14 Pentecost 10 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship	15	16	17 4:00 Farmer's Market	18	19	20
21 Pentecost 11 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship	22	23	24 4:00 Farmer's Market	25	26	27
28 Pentecost 12 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship Blessing of Backpacks 11:15 Council Meeting	29 Catechism Class Orientation Mtg. 7:00 PM	30	31 4:00 Farmer's Market			



- 1 Pray for musicians and worship leaders as they develop and broaden their skills and explore existing and new worship resources at the Augsburg Fortress Summer Music Clinics.
- 2 Pray that we will look to God's wisdom as we ponder the world, our purpose in life and how we might live with one another in global community.
- 3 Give thanks to God for the ELCA International Leadership Development Program, which provides financial support for the short- and long-term academic training of established and emerging leaders in global companion churches and institutions.
- 4 "Now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another" (Colossians 3:8-9a). Give thanks that, through our baptism and the ceaseless work of the Spirit, we are being transformed in *every way* to reflect the image of God in which we were created.
- 5 Pray for the leadership, wisdom and well-being of our presiding bishop, Elizabeth A. Eaton, as we and our siblings in Christ try to unify this church in a world of ever-evolving complexity, conflict and division.
- 6 Give thanks for the chance to combat hunger around the world through ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge, and for the generous donors matching our gifts to reach the fundraising goal of \$525,000.
- 7 Praise God that we find our true treasure in God's love and mercy given through Jesus Christ, a relationship that endures for all eternity.
- 8 Pray for voting members, leaders, guests and staff of the churchwide organization participating in the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. Ask the Spirit to guide and inspire their decision-making and spiritual discernment together on behalf of the entire church and to strengthen and unify them for doing God's work in the world.
- 9 *International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples* There are over 476 million Indigenous people living in 90 countries around the world. They have unique languages, traditions, cultures, knowledge systems, worldviews and systems for governing themselves. Pray that we will value them as children of God; respect their rights, freedoms, dignity and lands; and ensure their right to participate fully in political and economic activities. With repentant hearts, ask God's forgiveness for our harmful and unjust actions and policies throughout history, for taking what was not ours, and for forcing our own language, culture, religious beliefs, worldview and authority upon Indigenous peoples. Pray that we will work to rectify injustices and inequities, develop new relationships of trust and respect, and do the work necessary for reconciliation and healing.
- 10 Ask the Spirit to bolster us in praying for worldwide peace and reconciliation and in supporting people, ministries and organizations committed to making peace, providing relief, bearing hope and defending the vulnerable.
- 11 Pray that God will equip, inspire and sustain new synod bishops for serving in diverse contexts across the ELCA, and pray that they will find support, care and encouragement for their ministry and personal lives.
- 12 *International Youth Day* Give thanks for the gifts, wisdom and perspectives of youth around the world, and remember in prayer young people who live in areas of war and conflict, suffer poverty and hunger, long for educational opportunities, provide care for their siblings and parents, and live in hope for a better future.
- 13 Remember in prayer and give thanks for nurses, who use their gifts and skills in global mission, responding to disasters and serving their communities. Pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association and its work supporting and equipping parish nurses, helping congregations develop new health ministries and encouraging people to pursue nursing as a vocation.
- 14 Followers of Christ can suffer criticism and opposition. Ask God for courage, boldness and patience to share the gospel and serve our neighbors in need; pray that, when people oppose or criticize us, the Spirit will give us the confidence to respond with respect, love and humility.
- 15 Give thanks to God that, following a two-year pause due to COVID-19, Young Adults in Global Mission will send 25 new volunteers into the world to serve alongside our global companions and churches.
- 16 Ask God to help us discern between those who speak and teach God's word faithfully and those who deceive others by preaching and prophesying for personal gain, recognition or power.
- 17 Give thanks for the chance to enjoy the awe and beauty of God's creation in wilderness areas and city, state and national parks. Pray that, working together, we will make these treasures more accessible to people of all ages, abilities and economic circumstances.
- 18 Remember and give thanks for people now and throughout history who have inspired and strengthened our faith, helped us to understand God's word and ways, encouraged our service and witness in the world, and influenced our lives and actions through their fearless pursuit of justice and healing for all people.
- 19 Give thanks for the gifts, leadership, service and generosity of the laity of our church, who respond to God's call to serve our communities of faith, our society and our world.
- 20 Pray for companions and care providers who help people deal with illness, disability or the demands of aging. Ask that they will find the spiritual, physical and emotional strength necessary for their work, and that they will be renewed by rest, sabbath, self-care and the support they receive from others.
- 21 Ask God for forgiveness when, intentionally or not, we have discouraged total inclusion and involvement of all people in the church or society. Pray for an open mind and a willingness to listen to the stories and needs of those who are excluded or feel unwelcome; ask the Spirit to unite us in changing our practices, traditions, facilities and institutions to remove all barriers and deterrents to full inclusion and participation.
- 22 Pray for the young people gathering from a variety of backgrounds, churches and geographic regions for the World Council of Churches Stewards Program assembly in Germany. Ask God to bless their time together, nurture ecumenical unity and understanding, and inspire them to bring their experiences and ecumenical enthusiasm back home to their local contexts.
- 23 Give thanks for the ministry of the Christian Education Network of the ELCA, which supports and encourages professional and volunteer leaders who advance lifelong faith-formation ministries through congregations and partner organizations.
- 24 Express awe, reverence and thanks for the new covenant God has made with humanity and sealed in Jesus Christ, an enduring covenant of unconditional love, forgiveness and restoration of our relationship with God.
- 25 Pray for students beginning the new school year, especially those feeling uncertain, hesitant, insecure or fearful. Ask the Spirit for opportunities to care for students with tutoring, mentoring, counseling, family support and safe programs before and after school.
- 26 "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Psalm 103:8). Bless the Lord and give thanks!
- 27 The end of summer is a time of transition for many people in seasonal jobs. Pray that they will be appreciated for their skills and service, find employment and housing, have consistent and affordable access to insurance and health care, and be welcomed and supported by communities and congregations wherever they go.
- 28 Pray that we might not rate ourselves above others because of their life circumstances, race, ability, appearance, education, income, religion, social status or political affiliation. Ask the Spirit to fill us with respect, thoughtfulness and compassion for our neighbor, no matter who they are.
- 29 Remember in prayer teachers, classroom assistants, student teachers, counselors, coaches, school staff and school administrators. Ask the Spirit to sustain their enthusiasm and inspire their wisdom, creativity, patience and concern for students and their parents.
- 30 Paul's instructions to the Hebrews couldn't be more timely: "Let mutual love 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 we will turn to Scripture and the wisdom shared by our communities of faith for guidance on how to live and serve our neighbors in these times of deep division and conflict.
- 31 Pray that the fall programs and community ministries of our congregations will flourish, welcome guests, inspire faith, spread the gospel, respond to our neighbors' needs and equip people for doing God's work in the world.

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

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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

Mr. Larry Allen

Director of Music and Organist

Mrs. Kris Malia

Parish Secretary

Michael Eck

Sexton



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 28



Rally Day

Sunday, September 11



Sunday School Kick-off!

Followed by Fellowship Event for the whole congregation as we gather to Assemble Healthy Snack Bags for Daily Bread Ministries!

Look for more information in the September Voice and upcoming bulletin announcements.

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