

the Voice parish newsletter

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven.

--Jesus of Nazareth (Matthew 7:21)

Allan Sandage announced he was a Christian in 1983 at age 57. At the time, he was one of the most influential astronomers of the 20th century. He had been an atheist. He had been a graduate assistant for the renowned Edwin Hubble.

When I learned Sandage became a Christian at 57, I began thinking about how people articulate their coming to faith. Ask yourself a personal question, "When did I become a Christian?" Even more, "If I were to be arrested for being Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me?"

After studying stars and receiving honors, Allan Sandage came to certain conclusions.... *"If there was a creation event, it had to have a cause. Why is there something instead of nothing? It was my science that drove me to the conclusion that the world is much more complicated than can be explained by science. It is only through the supernatural that I can understand the mystery of existence. The world is too complicated in all its parts and interconnections to be due to chance alone. I am convinced that the existence of life with all its order in each of its organisms is simply too well put together."*

Sandage became a Christian through a church near the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). Ask yourself again, "When did I become a Christian?" And, "If I'm not worshipping the one God revealed in Christ with a congregation, who or what am I worshipping?"

Jesus said, *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven."* Allan Sandage faced the first-order questions head on. He sensed life to be more than income, career, pension, and play. He sensed Christ. Some find Jesus; many don't. Church rally days will be held this month across the land. Who's asking the big questions about life and the expanding universe? Do you know when you became a Christian, or if you even have faith? Jesus said 'not everyone' enters his kingdom. There are questions we can't ignore. Rally Day is September 11. The Day draws near. It's God's will to ask questions and to come to a living faith in Christ; to be a true Christian.

In Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy



September, 2022

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



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Life stewardship lessons from the Danes

And Jesus said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' -**Luke 12:15**

The people of Denmark, about six million living in a nation smaller than West Virginia, routinely count among the world's most contented. This year's World Happiness Report ranks the Danes No. 2, behind Finland. The United States ranks 19.

What do the Danes know that we don't?

Several key principles for living help explain Danish happiness, Meik Wiking, chief executive officer of the Happiness Research Institute in Copenhagen, told the *New York Times*:

Decoupling wellbeing from wealth. Jesus did teach us that our lives do not consist in the abundance of possessions, though our consumer culture relentlessly tells us otherwise. How much happier would Americans be if our culture taught us to be content regardless of our wealth?

Hygge. This is a Danish term that Wiking describes as “the art of enjoying the simple pleasures in life.” Getting together with friends, enjoying the outdoors, experiencing joy with family, finding peace in your own home – things that are readily at hand, without fuss or expense.

High levels of trust. Scandinavians tend to trust one another and their institutions. “We consider the collective ‘we’ versus ‘me,’” Amy Clotworthy, a professor at the University of Copenhagen, told the *Times*.

As Christians looking for guidance on how we can be good stewards of our lives, these principles provide inspiration and guidance. How might you incorporate them into your life?

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Love. Grow. Serve.

SEPTEMBER BIBLE STUDIES



Monday Night: *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* in the Bible

Thursday Morning: *Malachi* (the last Old Testament book)

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. “Fall Back” to God’s Word. Join us!

Note: Due to Pastor Heagy’s shoulder surgery, the Bible studies may be delayed. Check your weekly email or call the church office.

MONDAY NIGHT

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE BIBLE

7:00 PM-8:00 PM

September 12	<i>Diversity</i>	Selected Texts
September 19	<i>Equity</i>	Selected Texts
September 26	<i>Inclusion</i>	Selected Texts

THURSDAY MORNING

THE BOOK OF MALACHI

10:00 AM-11:15 AM

September 8	<i>Malachi 1 (may be postponed)</i>
September 15	<i>Malachi 2</i>
September 22	<i>Malachi 3</i>

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

Our new director, Dr. Christopher Keenan, began his service on August 14. We are grateful for his talents!

Choir rehearsal resumed this month at 7 PM on Wednesdays. On September 7, Corey Wingard & Jeff Grasha will host a choir party in their home at 6:30 PM prior to kicking off the new rehearsal year.

Hannah Morrison & Barbara Heagy will lead the Children’s Choir this year. Stay tuned for rehearsal dates.

After the pandemic hiatus, a Children’s Advent/Christmas pageant will resume this year in early December. The children will perform a traditional nativity play. There are plenty of roles to fill—shepherds, magi, angels, sheep, Mary, Joseph, and other manger animals. We look forward to seeing the children and singing holiday music together.

Join us for worship! The pandemic has subsided. Let us rejoice for the opportunity to praise God together!

SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER, 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

September 4-Crucifer

8:30 Dylan Snyder

10:00 Owen O’Brien

September 11-Crucifer

8:30 Annaleigh Dwulit

10:00 Luke Frankovitch

September 18- Crucifer

8:30 Milo Bucher

10:00 Gabriel Provins

September 25-Crucifer

8:30 Easton Darcy

10:00 Xavier Graybill



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 4 Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33
- September 11 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Exodus 32:7-14
Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10
- September 18 Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13
- September 25 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Rally Day—September 11
10:00 Sunday School starts in the
Sanctuary

Catechetical Classes Resume This Month

Catechetical instruction in preparation for the Public Affirmation of Baptism, the rite also known as Confirmation resumes this month. *There may be a start up delay due to Pastor Heagy's shoulder surgery. E-mails will be sent to update parents and students.*

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. If you missed the orientation meeting please call the Church Office for more information.

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.



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:

Fried Chicken-Mac & Cheese-Cole Slaw
Dessert & Iced Tea

Monetary Donations are needed to buy the ingredients needed to create this meal. Sign up sheet is located in the Narthex to serve the meal. Thanks to all who contribute to this much needed ministry.





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; Elena Getz; Colette; Paul Young;

If you are interested in becoming a Lector please contact Cindy Brown, 412-779-2020, cindysgb@icloud.com.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the September issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by Sunday, September 18th. Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.



DRIVE-THRU SENIOR FAIR & VACCINE/FLU SHOT CLINIC **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22** **10:00 -12:00**

There will be a senior drive thru clinic hosted by the Office of Dan Miller. Vaccines and flu shots available only with a pre-registration, along with many vendors to speak with seniors about overall health and prevention. To register for vaccine please email RepDanMiller.com or call 412-343-3870

VISIT OUR LIBRARY

School is back in session. Autumn is in the air. Why not sit back and enjoy a good book. Our very own library is stocked with good stories, fictional and non fictional, for you to enjoy. Down the hall past the office to the left. We also offer music cd's, documentary dvd's, and an abundant children's section.



FELLOWSHIP ON THE FRONT **LAWN**



All are invited for a time of fellowship between worship liturgies. Safely enjoy food, beverage, and reconnecting with each other outside on the Washington Road side of our campus. **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.**

A Note from the Treasurer:

For many members, the e-offering platform has been a useful tool and we thank you for using it. This is a reminder that if you use your bank account directly, the fee is 30 cents. If you use a credit card, the fee is 3.25%. Please use the bank account direct debit if at all possible.



Mt. Lebanon Farmers' Market

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

The Farmers' Market operates through October 21st.

Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi **Sunday, October 2nd Blessing of Pets** **at 10:00 in the Social Hall**

We will be collecting supplies for Animal Friends Shelter on Sunday, October 2nd 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

Pastor's Summer 2022 Vacation Reading

Natural Science in Western History

Frederick Gregory / Houghton Mifflin / 2008
History of science undergraduate textbook.

Galileo's Daughter

A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love

Dava Sobel / Bloomsbury / 1999

A biography of the famous scientist based on extant letters from his daughter, Maria Celeste.

Somnium

Johannes Kepler / Amazon / 2018

A short, science fiction novel, imagining a voyage to the moon, written by Kepler in 1608.

Conversations on the Plurality of Worlds

Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle / University of California Press / 1990

First published in 1686, this book is a beloved classic of the early French Enlightenment.

Science and Change 1500-1700

Hugh Kearney / World University Library / 1971

Hugh Kearney (1924-2017) was one of my favorite professors in the history department at Pitt.

The Immense Journey

An Imaginative Naturalist Explores the Mysteries of Man and Nature

Loren Eiseley / Vintage Books / 1957

A Nebraska native who taught anthropology at Kansas, Oberlin, but mainly at Penn.

The Unexpected Universe

Loren Eiseley / Harcourt Brace & Company / 1969

*After enjoying **The Immense Journey** (see above), I read another of Eiseley's books!*

A Sand County Almanac

And Sketches Here and There

Aldo Leopold / Oxford University Press / 1949

A venerated book in America's conservation movement. Leopold's passion was preserving the balance of nature. He died fighting a grass fire on a neighbor's farm shortly after he'd become an advisor on conservation to the United Nations. Two middle schools in Iowa and Wisconsin are named for him. In Madison, Wisconsin, his home is an official landmark.

The First Three Minutes

A Modern View of the Origin of the Universe

Steven Weinberg / Basic Books / 1977

Winner of the 1979 Nobel Prize for Physics, Weinberg concluded life is little more than farce.

Coming of Age in the Milky Way

Timothy Ferris / Harper Collins / 1988

Nominated for a Pulitzer, the New York Times listed this book among the best in the 20th century.



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 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.

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.

Please see the flyer in this issue for more details and a list of needed ingredients for the Healthy Snack Bags. Donations may be brought to the Narthex throughout August. See you on Rally Day!

All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.
Isaiah 54:13

Sunday School Registration Forms are included in this newsletter and in the narthex. Please take a minute to complete and return this form, which will provide your child's teacher with important information. Forms should be returned to the church office by September 11th. Or you may email your child's teacher updated information to:

mbtrivilino@verizon.net

**Sunday School Substitutes
Needed**

Substitutes are needed to teach Sunday School on certain dates. The curriculum is easy to use, and prior experience is not required.

Please contact Mary Beth Trivilino at mbtrivilino@verizon.net for more info or to volunteer.

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran
In Person Sunday School Student 2022- 2023 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?

*"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*

Please note: We will follow the health and safety guidelines and practices set by our Church Council.
Please do not send your children to Sunday School if they are sick or have a fever.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

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.

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:

- Applesauce Cups
- Fruit Cups
- Beef Jerky

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 150+ 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*

Save these dates!



Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi

Blessing of Pets

Sunday, October 2nd

10:00 PM in the Social Hall

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

Please see full article on page 7.



Worship Liturgies of Word, Sacrament and Healing

in observance of

The Feast Day of Saint Luke

Evangelist and Physician

Sunday, October 16th at 8:30 and 10:00 AM



The Annual Congregation Meeting

of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

October 23rd

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

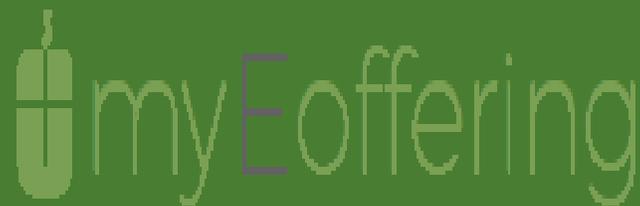
Stay tuned for more details.



Reformation Sunday

October 30th

Bible Presentation to First Graders



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.

A



PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY September 5, 2022



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*

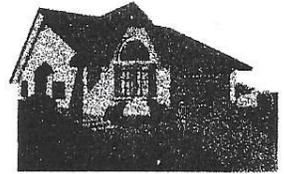


**REMEMBER 9-11 AND THE FAMILIES OF THE
DECEASED IN YOUR PRAYERS.**



Please see registration form on page 11.

Nurturing Faith in the Home



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

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

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

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

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

7 Goals For Nurturing Faith In The Home

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

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

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 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Pentecost 13 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship	5 Labor Day Office Closed	6 4:30-5:30 Cat Level II	7 4:00 Farmer's Market 7:00 Choir Practice	1 8 10:00 September Bible Studies 4:30-5:30 Cat Level 1	2 9 10	3
11 Pentecost 14 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship RALLY DAY 10:00 Sunday School Begins 11:00 Service Project 2:00 Daily Bread Outreach Meal	12 7:00 September Bible Studies	13 4:30-5:30 Cat Level II	14 4:00 Farmer's Market 7:00 Choir Practice	15 10:00 September Bible Studies 4:30-5:30 Cat Level 1	16 17	
18 Pentecost 15 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School	19 7:00 September Bible Studies	20 4:30-5:30 Cat Level II	21 4:00 Farmer's Market 7:00 Choir Practice	22 10:00 September Bible Studies 4:30-5:30 Cat Level 1	23 24	
25 Pentecost 16 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Liturgy 8:30 Live Virtual Liturgy 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting	26 7:00 September Bible Studies	27 4:30-5:30 Cat Level II	28 4:00 Farmer's Market 7:00 Choir Practice	29 10:00 September Bible Studies 4:30-5:30 Cat Level 1	30 	





1 Pray for people, communities and regions of our country and the world suffering drought and persistent extreme heat that threaten lives, agricultural production, availability of water, and the health of communities and nations.

2 Pray for peace and healing wherever there is war or conflict in the world, and for the Spirit to further our work toward peace, understanding, respect for one another and unity in our country.

3 Pray for leaders, volunteers and teachers in our congregations who help others to deepen their faith, study Scripture, develop skills and confidence for sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, and care for one another as disciples of Christ who never cease to learn or grow.

4 Pray that we will have the courage to follow Jesus, reordering our priorities and allegiances, using our wealth and resources to care for our neighbors in need, and resisting things that pull us away from God.

5 *Labor Day* On this day we recognize and pray for the work people do to sustain their families and the service they do to benefit their communities and society. Pray that all will receive fair wages, work in safe environments, be renewed through times of sabbath, and experience joy and fulfillment in their labor. Pray for all those who seek employment to find work, and for the well-being, care and support of people unable to work.

6 Pray that we will find wisdom, guidance, nourishment and joy in the commands and ways of God, becoming "like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and [whose] leaves do not wither" (Psalm 1:3).

7 Pray for the new volunteers in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program, who depart today to serve with our global companions in Senegal, Jerusalem/West Bank, Argentina, Uruguay and the United Kingdom.

8 Pray for the Spirit to guide and bless synods as they implement decisions and plans made during their assemblies this year. Pray that they will be guided by the shared wisdom, creativity and gifts of lay and rostered leaders, members of congregations, ministry partners and voices from the communities they serve.

9 Pray that children and youth will be surrounded by parents, family, church leaders, teachers, neighbors and role models who are caring, respectful, encouraging and sincere in their faith.

10 Ask the Spirit to sustain our commitment to end racism and to address the deforming impact of white supremacy on our social and political endeavors. Pray that we will confront injustice, racism and inequities in our church, society, institutions and laws, and that we will proclaim boldly our conviction that all people are wonderfully created and gifted children of God.

11 *"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday* On our church's annual day of service, ask God to help us throughout our baptismal journeys as we strive to bring justice, stir hope, care for creation and strengthen communities through churchwide programs, local churches, global companions, social ministries and community organizations.

12 Give thanks and praise to God for seeking us out when we are lost or wander away, and for restoring and affirming our relationship as children of God.

13 Pray that the Spirit will inspire people to use their unique gifts and skills abroad, seeking opportunities to serve with the ELCA's global church companions and international partners.

14 Give thanks and pray for confirmation programs and teachers who help young people study the Bible; learn the basics of faith; become familiar with Lutheran theology, confessions and practices; and examine the connection between their faith in Jesus Christ, the world and their daily lives.

15 *First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month* Give thanks to God for the gifts, contributions and rich cultural diversity of our Latinx neighbors and siblings in Christ, and pray for the growth and vitality of the 147 Latino ministries of the ELCA as they share the gospel, equip leaders, promote inclusivity and diversity, and serve their neighbors.

16 "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the foremost" (1 Timothy 1:15). Lift up prayers of repentance and gratitude for God's gift of undeserved love and forgiveness, made personal through Jesus Christ.

17 Ask God to sustain teachers in schools and early childhood education programs. Pray that they will create safe and encouraging environments where students can learn skills for living and decision-making, form caring friendships, better understand the world and humanity, and develop concern for the well-being of their communities and society.

18 Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters — natural and human-made. Give thanks for what we accomplish together around the world through [LDR](#), and let us promise to be generous in our support and involvement.

19 Remember in prayer the four new country coordinators working with volunteers in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program: Jessica Geroux (Argentina/Uruguay), Jordan and Adam Miller-Stubbendick (Jerusalem and the West Bank) and Mytch Dorvilier (Senegal).

20 Remember in prayer the needs, concerns and challenges of parents who have children in school.

21 *International Day of Peace* Join with our neighbors and siblings in Christ around the world in praying for peace, healing, restoration and unity.

22 *First day of autumn* Give thanks for the changing seasons and the beauty and blessings of autumn, which delight us, inspire us, help us prepare for the winter months and remind us of the cycles of life in God's creation.

23 Ask God to attend to those suffering hunger, poverty, illness and crisis. Pray that we will always recognize and respond to our neighbors in need and that our care and concern will reflect God's boundless love and mercy for humankind.

24 Remember in prayer young adults who serve in the military. Pray that we will find ways to connect them with military ministries and with faith communities back home, and to support them both during their service and as they transition out of the military.

25 Pray that congregations engaged in mission planning and renewal will be guided and inspired by the Spirit, listening to God through Scripture and prayer, to the voices within our faith communities and to those outside the doors of our congregations.

26 Pray that we might grasp the tenacity of God's concern for those suffering from poverty and hunger, here and around the world. Embrace God's call to care for our neighbors in need and to end poverty and hunger through our shared compassion, resources, wisdom and resolve.

27 "They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life" (1 Timothy 6:18-19). Pray that we will be kind, generous and attentive to God's work in the world, trusting God's favor and the promise of eternal life over wealth, status or accomplishments.

28 Ask God to bless our 65 synod bishops, presiding bishop and secretary as they gather for the Conference of Bishops to support one another, worship, study, conduct church business and help identify, invite, equip and support new leaders in the church.

29 *Michael and All Angels* Praise God for the unfathomable mysteries of creation and all beings that reveal God's presence, power and will.

30 *Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters* This day of observance originated in Canada to raise awareness of the tragic legacy of government-funded Indian boarding schools, many of which were run by Christian churches. These schools forced children to assimilate to white culture by separating them from their parents and stripping them of their Indigenous cultures, languages and spiritual beliefs. The United States and the ELCA share this legacy. Ask for God's mercy and forgiveness for the pain and suffering inflicted on Indigenous peoples throughout the history of our nation. Pray that we will view our national history with humility and work to correct the lasting impacts of injustice, for the well-being and wholeness of all people.

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

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Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Kurt Kusserow

Bishop
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

The Reverend Douglas M. Heagy

Senior Pastor

Dr. Christopher Keenan, DMA

Director of Music and Organist

Mr. Larry Allen

Director of Music and Organist Emeritus

Mrs. Kris Malia

Parish Secretary

The Annual Congregational Meeting



of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

OCTOBER 23, 2022
9:30 AM



Annual Reports will be emailed in advance which members are encouraged to read.

Remember the mission of Christ in your prayers.

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

Please note:

At least 2 weeks before the email meeting, church members will receive by email the 2023 council member nominations and the proposed 2023 budget. Check your email box in the coming weeks.