

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



the *Voice* parish newsletter



“Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” --John 6:12

We hold our annual meeting this month. Members nominated to serve on council will be elected. A proposed 2023 budget will be presented for approval. Our bylaws stipulate the annual meeting is duly held if a quorum is reached. To attain this minimum number of members to validate the meeting during the pandemic, electronic attendance and voting were authorized. A new, hybrid approach has been adopted for this year’s meeting, permitting members to vote in person on October 23 at 9:30 AM or by email.

The reason for this hybrid approach is due to the impact of the pandemic on church attendance. A hybrid approach ensures a quorum. COVID-19 exacerbated the already existing trend of worship decline in America. A majority of Americans no longer worship God; meanwhile, idols thrive. America is not alone among nations by its trend from God.

Thinking of this trend recently, I began ruminating about Jesus feeding over 5000 with five bread loaves and two fish. Surprisingly, after everyone was fed to their satisfaction, scraps of bread remained. Jesus said to his followers, *“Gather up the fragments, so that nothing may be lost.”*

In this post-pandemic period, the church in America survives, in part, by the fragments left from former, glory days of robust worship. The bread fragments left in Jesus’ miraculous meal are a metaphor, albeit strained, for our current condition. Achieving a quorum by a hybrid model (aka, ‘virtual attendance’) is not ideal, but we are doing our best in the worst of times, hoping America will return one day to God and Sabbath. Christ, meanwhile, will sustain us with fragments. Let’s not lose heart. Let’s be grateful for fragments in the aftermath of COVID, picking up the pieces, offering gratefully our time and treasure for the Lord.

Norvelt, Pennsylvania (*look it up!*), a tiny town in Westmoreland County, was created in 1934 by the Roosevelt administration to enable poor citizens to survive the Great Depression. This charming town endures! I think a lot about it amid this Great Depression time of worship life in America.... Let’s hope in God and keep praising God, who alone is worthy of our worship. Let’s *gather the fragments, so that nothing may be lost.*”

In Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy



October, 2022

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Cultivating our life's harvest

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." --John 10:10

Fall harvest provides a wonderful analogy for how, as stewards of our lives, we are responsible for making the most of our time on earth. Farmers plant, water, fertilize and harvest, but they do not actually *create* the life that produces crops. Life comes only from God. Farmers only *manage and optimize* the properties and processes of life that God engineered into their plants.

Smart farmers know what soil is best, what fertilizer, and how much water to give each particular plant. By nurturing their plants with care and attention, farmers generate the best and most productive harvests.

So it is with us! God created and engineered us to thrive! Our task is to manage and optimize our lives so that we can experience the abundant life that Jesus talks about in John 10:10. We have the rich soil of family, friends and church community relationships. We have the water of God's Word, love, forgiveness, salvation and grace. We have the fertilizer of wholesome, nourishing food.

How can we cultivate our lives? We can: Water our faith through prayer, worship, scripture, generosity, love and service. Tend the soil of relationships by loving our families, neighbors and church community. Optimize our physical health by eating right, exercising and getting enough sleep. Nourish our intelligence and wisdom through education, reading, exploring and continually learning.

Farmers reap plentiful harvests by caring for plants in ways that God ordained would provide the best growth. By caring for ourselves in ways that God designed for us, we can enjoy that life abundant that Jesus promises.

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Love. Grow. Serve.

AUTUMN 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!



MONDAY NIGHT

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE BIBLE

7:00 PM-8:00 PM

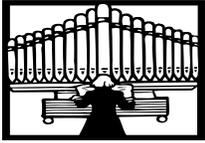
October 3	<i>Diversity</i>	Selected Texts
October 10	<i>Equity</i>	Selected Texts
October 17	<i>Inclusion</i>	Selected Texts

THURSDAY MORNING

THE BOOK OF MALACHI

10:00 AM-11:15 AM

October 6	<i>Malachi 1</i>
October 13	<i>Malachi 2</i>
October 20	<i>Malachi 3</i>
October 27	<i>Malachi 4</i>



Musical Musings October 2022

Chris Keenan

Hello from the new music director! Choir season is off to a great start! I have enjoyed having our wonderful consort of voices enhance worship weekly, as well as getting to know the choir members more each week during rehearsal. In the month of October, you will hear music from living composers and those long gone. We will celebrate All Saints with Orlando Lassus's *Justorum Animae* and also sing one of Palestrina's most-loved works, *Sicut Cervus* (As the Deer longs for the water....). Modern composers Dan Forrest (Psalm 121) and Elaine Hagenberg (I Will Be a Child of Peace) will also be presented.

If you or someone you know would like to audition for the choir, please reach out to Chris Keenan. You can email me at ChrisKeenanmusic@gmail.com



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: OCTOBER, 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

October 2-Crucifer

8:30 Annaleigh Dwulit

10:00 Jack O'Brien

October 9 -Crucifer

8:30 Chase Lutz

10:00 Gabriel Provins

October 16- Crucifer

8:30 Cameron Mayer

10:00 Addison Mayer

October 23-Crucifer

8:30 Addy Wetzel

10:00 Henry Keplar

October 30—Crucifer

8:30 Claire Bruno

10:00 Carter Lutz



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

- October 2 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10
- October 9 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
2 Kings 5:3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19
- October 16 Festival of Saint Luke
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8
- October 23 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14
- October 30 Reformation Sunday
Isaiah 1:10-18
Psalm 32:1-7
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

Sunday School at 10:00

Remember the Sabbath Day

Catechetical Classes Resume This Month

Catechetical instruction in preparation for the Public Affirmation of Baptism, the rite also known as Confirmation resumes this month.

Level I classes will be Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 PM, beginning on October 13th. 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 October 11th. 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.

If you would like to sponsor the Sunday Morning Fellowship for October or November, please contact the church office. See full article on page 7.



Hunger never takes a

break... While back to school shopping please continue to remember 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, laundry products and monetary donations. When making monetary donations, please designate to St. Michael Food Bank or the ELCA World Hunger ministries using a *designated gift envelope* in your pew. We also thank Clarence Gourley who make the deliveries to the Food Bank in Spring Garden.



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:**

God, our Father, you know that we, your children, live in a fallen creation midst danger and sickness. We are often surrounded by darkness and the shadow of fear. And yet we have no reason to falter, for we trust that your Fatherly care cradles us and keeps us safe. With Angelic attention, you keep watch of our bodily temples with winged wonder. With the splendor of Your shelter, bring healing into the lives of:

Craig Elias; 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;

NOTE: Please contact the church office if there are any changes for the prayer list. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month. If a person is to remain on the prayer list or to be added, just call the church office and let us know.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the November issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by Sunday, October 16th. Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.

Fourth Quarter Editions *Christ in Our Home*, our congregational family's daily devotional, will be available in the Narthex. You are invited to take a copy for personal use and encouraged to use it daily in your meditative life.



Mt. Lebanon Farmers' Market

[sponsored by the Lions' Club]
Wednesdays 4:00—7:00 PM
The Farmers' Market operates through October 26th.

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.

Sunday, October 2
Pet Blessing observed at 10:00 am
Social Hall

Sunday, October 16
Saint Luke, observed both liturgies
Liturgies of Word, Sacrament and Healing

Annual Meeting October 23
Hybrid Meeting-Vote In-Person or by Email

Reformation Sunday - October 30
Bible Presentation at 10:00 Liturgy



***You're Invited...To the
Sunday Morning Fellowship***

Each Sunday worshippers have the opportunity to greet one another and welcome visitors at our:

Sunday Morning Fellowship in the Narthex. Join us in between the early and late Liturgies to share greetings and conversations with friends and visitors. Refreshments are available for all.

The Sunday Morning Fellowship also provides opportunities to volunteer:

- * Sponsor the Coffee Project of Lutheran World Relief, helping small growers, their families and communities through the fair trade of coffee.
- * Volunteer to set up and clean the Fellowship refreshments table. It's easy to do and a member of the Hospitality Committee will show you how. Also, written instructions are available.
- * Provide sweet (or healthy) treats for all to enjoy. (Gluten free and nut free treats are also welcomed)

If you'd like to help you can sign up on the bulletin board in the main hallway, or contact the church office.

Bibles for First Graders & New Students

Our First Graders will be presented with their very own Bibles on Reformation Sunday, October 30 at the beginning of the 10:00 Liturgy. If you have an older child who has not yet received a Bible, please contact the church office as soon as possible so that we may present one to them as well.

Rally Day Thanks!

We kicked off our 2022/23 academic year on Rally Day, September 11. It was wonderful to see so many kids and families participate!

Many thanks to our Sunday School Teachers, Assistants and Education volunteers! See full list below. We are happy to be back in our classrooms this year. Thanks to our Property Chair Don Snyder for shampooing carpets and to the Keplar family for sprucing up classrooms and the Nursery.

It's not too late to register your kids for Sunday School. We have classes for Pre K/K through 8th grade. We are off to a great start, so join us Sunday mornings at 10:00.

"Let the Children Come!" Mark 10:14

Parents of College Students

Please Update the mailing addresses of your college-age students. We plan at least 2 mailings to them this year. Please send addresses to the Church office at MtLeboLuth@aol.com

God's Work/Our Hands Day of Service Update

September 11 was also God's Work/Our Hands Day of Service among ELCA congregations across the country. Our Sunday School families and the entire congregation participated by working together to decorate and fill over **180 Healthy Snack Bags** for Daily Bread Ministries. Many thanks to all who donated items and helped fill the bags!

Special thanks to all who volunteered to serve and contribute to our **Daily Bread Outreach Meal**—We served 176 Meals! Our next meal will be on November 20.

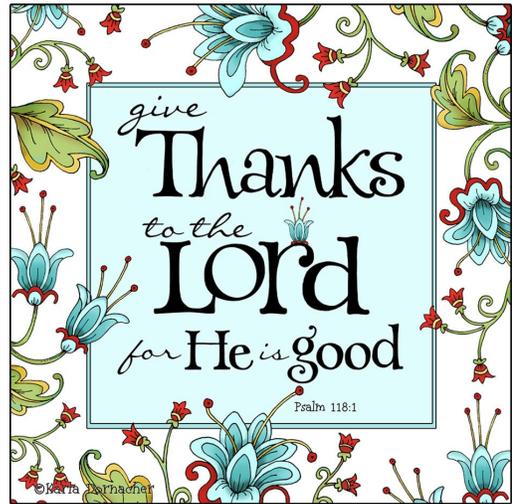
Rally Day High Tea

Many thanks to our Congregational Life Committee led by Jeff McGraw for serving an elegant High Tea for our Rally Day event! Delicious treats, specialty teas and lemonade was enjoyed by 45 adults and kids.

Partners with Parents in Christian Education

Pre-K/Kindergarten (*ages 4-6*) – Emma Gelston, Hayden Sinar, Claire Bruno
Elementary (*1st-4th grades*) – Lizzy Koval, Jessica Porter; Assistant: Nico Provins
Middle Grades (*5th-8th grades*) – Mary Beth Trivilino (Sunday School Director)
High School Coffee Hour– Julia Nelson
Kids Choir – Barb Heagy & Hannah Morrison
Craft Service Projects – Debbie Hazlett
Church Librarian – Melodie Frankovitch
Sunday School Registrar & Cradle Roll -- Normajean Graybill
Bulletin Board – Cindy Zuch
First Communion Instruction & Adult Bible Studies -- Pastor Heagy
Catechetics (*Confirmation*) Instruction – Pastor Heagy, with Sara Dougherty & Ann Ultsch
Educational Ministries Chairperson – Vedette Keplar

A Special Note To Share....



September 23, 2022

Dear Sara and friends at Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church,

This morning, I was working on my church's World Communion Sunday liturgy, and I am so grateful for the "small world of churches" in the Pittsburgh area that bless and support Daily Bread Ministry. Thank you so very much for keeping us close to your heart and mission. The abundant gift of your food bags is such a blessing to our ministry.

Just yesterday, a young woman and man, coping with homelessness, came to Daily Bread with a deep sense of desperation. They had just come from the health clinic where she discovered she was pregnant. They were so hungry, and she was concerned about proper nutrition during her pregnancy. We were able to care for them in the midst of their fear about what this means for them, as well as give to them a hot meal and a bunch of your care bags to get them through for a few days. Also, through the gift of another church, we were able to secure for them the prenatal vitamins that she needed. In addition, we were able to point them to other non-profit agencies that could be of great assistance to them in their dire time of need.

I was so blessed because we were all about being the Church of Jesus Christ working together in a cooperative way to truly being the Body of Christ. I am sure our Lord was pleased, and I could hear him saying..."Yes, this is the way it is supposed to work!" And so, I thank you for the many ways that you bless our ministry allowing us to fulfill our Lord's words: "Whenever you did it to one of the least of these, you did unto me."

With a heart full of gratitude,

Bob Maravalli
Daily Bread Ministries



(180 Rally Day Heathy Snack Care Bags)

--Educational Ministries

Educational Ministries reach, teach, and nurture all of God's people as we equip them to be disciples of Christ for the Glory of God.

What Lutherans Believe about Christian Education

Lutherans believe that Christian Education:

- guides and supports the whole people of God through a lifelong process of forming faith in Jesus Christ;
- equips believers to proclaim God's grace revealed in Jesus Christ for all people;
- helps individuals to live faithfully in relationships with God, one another and all of creation;
- is rooted in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions that have shaped our faith and continue to be passed from generation to generation.

What Lutherans Believe about the Bible

- The words of the Bible point us to the Word incarnate, Jesus Christ.
- When we read the Bible, we do more than *learn* about God—we *meet* God!
- God has given us the Bible: Psalm 119:105; Luke 11:28, Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:15
- The Bible alone is the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged.
- God speaks to us through the Bible so that we may believe *in* Jesus Christ as Lord.

It all Began at Baptism

By the waters of Holy Baptism we are claimed as God's own and brought into a new community.

Parents have been given the privilege of primary care for God's gift of their children. In Baptism parents agree to teach and model for their children a faith based on Scripture, the Apostle's Creed, the Ten Commandments, worship attendance, and to provide for their instruction in the Christian faith.

Teachers in our ministry of Christian Education partner with parents to nurture an increase in understanding God's boundless love, acceptance and forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

Youth Service Projects

As Christians, we are called to be Jesus' disciples in the world. We practice discipleship through prayer, worship, Bible reading, sharing time & talents, and serving others. *We do these things in Christian love, and understand that they are not requirements to receive the gift of God's grace.*

We hope that in serving others we share our love for God and our neighbors, and that these experiences will provide opportunities to meet friends, learn and grow in our spiritual lives. Youth Service Projects will be coordinated with the Social Ministries Committee, Sunday School program and Catechetics classes. Look for project dates in *the Voice*, bulletin and Church web site.

"Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14

Annual Thanksgiving Outreach Project

Our Congregation will once again provide Thanksgiving food to families who participate in the St. Michaels Food Pantry.

Please help by donating any of the following food items by **Sunday, November 6**. Please see collection display in the Narthex.

Items we are collecting:

CANS: vegetables, fruits, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes/yams

BOXES: cornbread, mashed potatoes, and stuffing mixes

ENVELOPES or CANS : gravy

Eliminating glass jars due to breakage during travel ... thank you!

Giant Eagle gift cards

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Sunday, November 13 11:15 am

We will be meeting in person as a congregation to put together the Thanksgiving baskets this year!! Please join us in the social hall after the late liturgy on November 13 for some light refreshments while we work together to create beautiful baskets for our friends at St. Michaels. Any questions, contact Deb Hazlett at 412-849-2472



Sunday School students will make Thanksgiving crafts to include with the food on:

Sunday, October 30 from 9:35-10:00am
in the Social Hall (during SS Opening)

St. Michaels Food Pantry is very grateful for our support. Thank You!

Daily Bread Meal...



A traditional Thanksgiving menu is being planned for the next Daily Bread Meal on November 20, 2022. Watch for future announcements for more details. Monetary donations are now being accepted. Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex beginning November. A special thank you to all our volunteers and donors who support this vital ministry and in serving those in need.

The **Gutenberg Café** is back for the month of October! The church library has many new books on Martin Luther. Hot off the "press" for readers of all ages! Fall is a great time of year to get back in to reading!

Reformation Sunday October 30



Let's celebrate: For Lutherans and many other Protestants in America, the last Sunday in October is celebrated as Reformation Sunday. Reformation Sunday honors Martin Luther's bold action on October 31st, 1517. On that date Luther posted his statement of faith, known as the 95 Theses, on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This was the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Reformation was first celebrated on varied dates. After the Thirty Years' War, in 1667 John George II, Elector of Saxony, ordered a Reformation Festival to be celebrated on October 31st. In modern times, the observance was transferred to the nearest Sunday before or after October 29.

Psalm 46, appointed for the day is the basis for Luther's most famous hymn *Ein feste Burg is unser Gott* [A Mighty Fortress is Our God]. Join us in worship on October 30th as we remember Martin Luther and celebrate Reformation Sunday.

Castle Church -1517
Wittenberg, Germany



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 currently opened 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.





Worship Liturgies of Word, Sacrament and Healing

in observance of

The Feast Day of Saint Luke

Evangelist and Physician

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

*Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of
The church to pray over him And anoint him with oil
In the name of the Lord."*

James 5:14

Liturgies of healing, a practice begun in our congregation in 1986, will be led again on Sunday, October 16, in observance of the Feast Day of Saint Luke. **Both Sunday morning liturgies will emphasize healing on this day.**

HOWEVER, DUE to Pastor's shoulder surgery, LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTINGS WILL NOT BE ADMINISTERED THIS YEAR.

The liturgy of healing is based on the ministry of Christ, the nature and call of the Church, our Lutheran heritage, and a deep desire to touch more deeply the lives of those in our congregational family, community, and nation who are hurting and in need of healing.

Included in these liturgies are hymns, psalms, Biblical readings, a brief homily and prayers, including a remembrance of those who suffer; those recovering from sickness [whether it be of heart, mind or body]; those who are addicted; those who must face decisions about appropriate treatment and those who are caregivers.

Participants are those who desire healing in any form, those who wish to intercede on another's behalf, and those who desire to be a part of the Church's healing community in the world.

So that each worshiper might understand more fully the ministry of our Lord and His Church in healing, this article will provide additional biblical perspectives on healing.

Jesus and Healing

Healing works occupied a great part of our Lord's activities in the three years of His public ministry. Whenever Jesus preached the good news, He also healed the sick: "And where he came ... they laid the sick ... and besought him ... and as many as He touched were made well ..." [Saint Mark 6:56]

Jesus' Disciples and Healing

Jesus said, "He who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father" [Saint John 14:12] and commanded them specifically to preach and "heal the sick" [Saint Matthew 10:7].

Healing and Early Christians

The first Christians followed the works of Jesus and prayed that the works of God might be revealed. Besides the healings in Jerusalem, the healing work of Philip in Samaria [Acts 8:5-8] and Paul in Ephesus and on the island of Malta are noted [Acts 19:9-12; 28:9].

Healing and the Church

The gift of healing is much different from other gifts of the Spirit mentioned in the New Testament [among them prophesy, preaching, teaching, administration, hospitality, and generosity].

The New Testament does not speak of a special gift by the Lord to an individual, but the gift of healing as a gift which the church may use and administer through its representative.

In other words, the gift of healing is not given to one man or woman, but to the Church!

Prayer and Healing

The primary emphasis is on the prayer of faith. It will give the sick the help needed; that is, the help God wants to provide.

The Laying on of Hands

The laying on of hands [incorporated into the Healing Service for those who desire] is noted in both the Old and New Testaments.

Jacob is described as blessings the sons of Joseph by the laying on of hands in Genesis 48. And according to the command of the Lord, Moses put his hand on Joshua. Jesus often used the laying on of hands when he healed the sick [see St. Mark 1:41-2, St. Luke 5:13, St. Matthew 9:29, and St. John 9:6, for examples].

Jesus also told the believers to use the laying on of hands when they healed the sick. "And these signs will accompany those who believe; in my name they will cast out demons ... they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." [St. Mark 17:17-18].

It should also be noted that in the evangelical church, we also use the laying on of hands at baptism, absolution, confirmation, and ordination.

DUE TO Pastor's shoulder surgery, LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTINGS WILL NOT BE ADMINISTERED THIS YEAR.

Anointing with Oil

Anointing with oil may be compared to the visible means Jesus often used to evidence the accomplishment of healing, which might not be visible.

One must remember however, that the *outward* means, such as anointing with oil, is *not necessary* for healing. However, James 5:14 clearly states "Let him call the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."

In the liturgy of healing, those who desire *may* receive anointing with oil by the tracing of the sign of the Cross on the forehead.

Healing and Ritual Forms

There is no prescribed ritual or exact formula which must be followed in order to receive the gift of healing. However, New Testament writings do provide for the centrality of faith and prayer, with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. We follow the format prescribed in the *Occasional Services* accompaniment to the book of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

You should remember

- ◆ **Participation** is completely voluntary.
- ◆ **Requests for prayer** for specific individuals not able to be present should be made to the Pastor in advance. [NOTE: permission from the individual must be obtained.]
- ◆ **You may invite family and friends** to the Feast Day of Saint Luke.
- ◆ **Our liturgy of healing does not replace** the need for everyone to keep regular appointments with medical doctors.
- ◆ ***DUE TO Pastor's shoulder surgery, LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTINGS WILL NOT BE ADMINISTERED THIS YEAR.***

All Saints' Sunday Sunday, November 6th



On All Saint's Sunday, it is our tradition to observe the ancient and beautiful rite of Evening Prayer, one of the liturgical treasures of the historic church. **We will have ONE liturgy on Sunday, November 6, at 9:30 AM.**

During this liturgy, prayers will be made and candles will be lighted remembering by name those who have died *since last All Saints' Day*, [Note: Nov. 1 is the actual day of All Saints] whether or not they were members of our congregational family. Also, we will remember those who have given their lives in service to our country.

If you have experienced the death of a family member or friend since last All Saints' Day and wish to have them remembered on this All Saints' Sunday, please use the form below and submit it to the Church Office no later than Monday, October 24th.

Remembering before our Heavenly Father those of His children who have completed their lives on earth and who now share in the treasures of His eternal and glorious Kingdom.

All Saints' Sunday Liturgy November 6 / 9:30 AM

Please remember :
[please print]

Name _____

Died _____

Name _____

Died _____

Submitted
by _____

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



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- 1 You shall have no other gods.
- 2 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.
- 3 Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.
- 4 Honor your father and your mother.
- 5 You shall not murder.
- 6 You shall not commit adultery.
- 7 You shall not steal..
- 8 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 9 You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- 10 You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.



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.

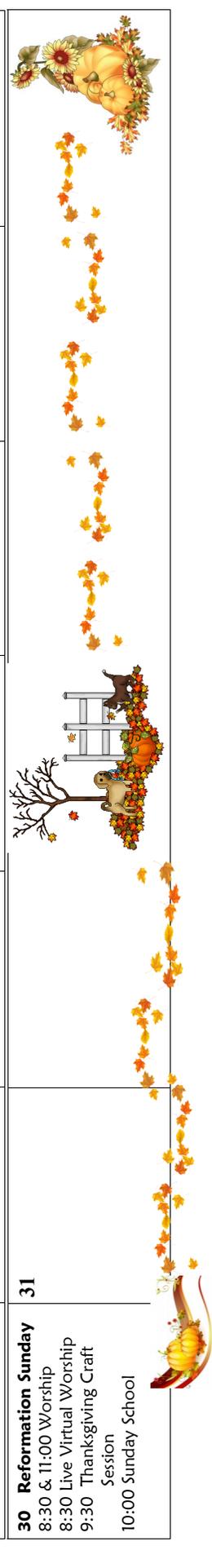
You can participate in the electronic giving program immediately. Just visit our church website and look for the "Donate Now" button.

Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.



OCTOBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Pentecost 17 8:30 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Pet Blessing Liturgy Social Hall	3 7:00 Bible Study Diversity	4	5 4:00 Farmers Market 7:00 Choir	6 10:00 Bible Study Malachi 1	7	8
9 Pentecost 18 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School	10 7:00 Bible Study Equity	11 4:30-5:30 - Cat Level 2	12 4:00 Farmers Market 7:00 Choir	13 10:00 Bible Study Malachi 2 4:30-5:30 - Cat Level 1	14	15
16 Pentecost 19 Feast of St. Luke 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School	17 7:00 Bible Study Inclusion	18 4:30-5:30 - Cat Level 2	19 4:00 Farmers Market 7:00 Choir	20 10:00 Bible Study Malachi 3 4:30-5:30 - Cat Level 1	21	22
23 Pentecost 20 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Annual Congregation Meeting 10:00 Sunday School	24	25 4:30-5:30 - Cat Level 2	26 4:00 Farmers Market 7:00 Choir	27 10:00 Bible Study Malachi 4 4:30-5:30 - Cat Level 1	28	29
30 Reformation Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Thanksgiving Craft Session 10:00 Sunday School	31					





1 *International Day of Older Persons* Give thanks for our older neighbors and siblings in Christ! Ask God to help us value, engage and nurture the skills, wisdom, faith and spiritual gifts of older adults and to respond to their diverse needs, circumstances and stages of life.

2 Praise God for the work of the Spirit that equips us for lives of faith and service, gathers us in communities of faith and enables us — individually and together — to engage in vital ministries for the sake of the world.

3 Pray that we will respond generously to the immediate and long-term needs of people and communities impacted by flooding and wildfires, and that we will bear hope, encouragement and care to those grieving the loss of loved ones and neighbors and rebuilding their own lives.

4 *Feast of Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)* Pray that we will greet each day with a sense of awe, gratitude and respect for creation, for the organisms and creatures that inhabit the earth and for humanity in all its diversity and complexity — the handiwork of God. Ask the Spirit to inspire us to live with greater simplicity and to manage wisely all that God has entrusted to our care, use and enjoyment.

5 We are living in times of economic uncertainty, a continuing pandemic, unresolved racism, political turmoil and human suffering. Pray for God to renew our spirit, calm our anxiety, strengthen our resiliency, draw our attention to the needs of our neighbor and help us make healthy choices.

6 “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you” (2 Timothy 1:5). Praise God for mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and others who invite us to believe in the life-giving love we have in Jesus Christ and who help us become fearless, faithful and compassionate disciples of Christ.

7 Thank God for our special relationship with the Reformed Church in America, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these challenging times.

8 Pray that the wisdom and knowledge of physicians, health care workers and medical researchers will continue to grow and be applied for the health and well-being of all people, especially those who suffer illnesses and conditions lacking effective treatments or cures.

9 Praise God for the example of Jesus pausing on his way to Jerusalem to heal the 10 lepers, which encourages our faith in the power of God to heal and renew and calls our attention to the needs of people around us.

10 Pray for rostered ministers and lay leaders who serve congregations in part-time or multiple-ministry contexts, that through their faith, energy and creativity those congregations might discover and use the assets they have, responding to God's call to serve their community, share the gospel and give witness to God's love and mercy.

11 Give thanks and pray for the ELCA Justice for Woman program and for the unique voices and experiences of women and girls — across race, ethnicity, ability, class, sexuality, gender identity and age — who raise awareness of and advocate for gender justice.

12 The ELCA Fund for Leaders helps provide scholarships for seminary students responding to God's call to follow Christ as congregational leaders, campus ministers, missionaries, mission developers and more. Give thanks for the fund's 25 years of helping seminary students continue their journey to ministry debt-free and for the generosity of ELCA members committed to encouraging and preparing new leaders.

13 Pray that we will live and serve with confidence in God's promises, listen to and respect one another, and reflect the love and ways of God in all that we do and say as people of faith and disciples of Christ.

14 Remember in prayer young adults who are working, serving in the military or engaged in nontraditional education opportunities, that they might know that God has purpose for them and that their gifts, knowledge, interests, life experiences and work are valued by the church, their communities and the world.

15 “Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart” (Psalm 111:1). Give thanks for God's trustworthy grace, activity in the world and daily blessings that renew and sustain us.

16 Rejoice in the promise that God hears the cries of those who suffer injustice, inequality and persecution; pray for the Spirit to help us persist in our prayers for our neighbors in need and our endeavors to make our church, society, institutions and laws just, equitable, inclusive and compassionate.

17 *International Day for the Eradication of Poverty* Supplying immediate relief for those who suffer poverty and hunger is critical, and the work we do together to address the underlying causes and eliminate poverty is essential. Pray that the Spirit will grant us wisdom, resolve and faith, that our efforts to end poverty will bear abundant fruit for the well-being of our neighbors in need.

18 Give thanks for this year's Churchwide Assembly and pray that we will continue to create opportunities for mutual encouragement, prayerful discussion of difficult issues, Spirit-led decision making and recommitment to the work we do together to share the gospel, serve our neighbor and bear light and hope into the world.

19 “From where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:1-2). Pray that our faith in God's love and care will be resilient and that we will be aware of people near us whom God works through to assist and accompany us in times of need and distress.

20 Pray for abundant autumn harvests and for agricultural workers, farmers, ranchers and those who serve in distribution chains around the world as they strive to feed themselves and nourish people everywhere.

21 Remember in prayer the people affected by catastrophic flooding in Pakistan over the past months — about 33 million people, including millions who have been displaced from their homes and communities.

22 Give thanks for Lutheran Services in America, an alliance that includes the ELCA and 300 health and human service organizations and serves the diverse needs of more than 6 million people each year in the United States and the Caribbean.

23 Ask the Spirit to ground our faith and service in humility so that we regard others as equal in humanity, children of God receiving the same grace, mercy and promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ that we have.

24 Give thanks for the ELCA Youth Ministry program, ELCA Youth Gathering and ELCA Youth Ministry Network, and for leaders of children, youth and family ministries. Pray that their work supporting and equipping leaders and developing faith formation programs and initiatives will thrive.

25 “Happy are those whose strength is in you” (Psalm 84:5). Give thanks that we find true strength and comfort through faith in God, who enables us to endure every difficulty and crisis in life, no matter how complex or consuming.

26 Ask God to strengthen our relationships with the Lutheran World Federation, National Council of Churches of Christ and World Council of Churches for the work we do together to share the good news of Jesus Christ, grow the church, share resources for ministry and leadership development, and promote ecumenical and interreligious understanding.

27 Pray that the Spirit will stir our determination to challenge ideologies that set us against one another through fear, hatred, untruths and mistrust. Ask God to help us hold to what is true, exercise love and mercy, seek justice and equity, care for one another and strive for unity.

28 Give thanks for school counselors, social workers and psychologists who care for students and their diverse needs. Pray that all children and youth will have access to affordable, effective and supportive mental health services.

29 Pray that our generosity will be driven by our desire to honor God, share the blessings and resources we have received, ease the burdens and suffering of neighbors in need, help others become self-sufficient, and strengthen communities.

30 *Reformation Sunday* We receive God's grace — undeserved love and forgiveness — through the gift of faith in the risen Christ, who restores our relationship with God. Give thanks for Martin Luther, for theologians and for siblings in Christ who inspire us to study Scripture, embrace God's gift of grace and salvation, deepen our faith and love for God, connect our faith with daily life and spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

31 Zacchaeus' life changed forever when he came down from a tree and met Jesus face to face. Pray that our lives will be transformed and filled with joy because of our encounter with Jesus, who reveals God's gracious love for humanity.

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

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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.