

the Voice parish newsletter

RALLY DAY & SERVICE PROJECTS

*For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.*

Psalm 72:12

This September newsletter is sent with urgency. We begin our program year this month with two service projects for which help is needed.

Rally Day: Sunday, September 10

On Sunday, September 10, Sunday School will resume at 10:00 AM and we will meet at 4:00 PM in a service project, preparing gift bags for area needy. This “assembly line” project will take about 30 minutes; and then we will enjoy a Chili Cook-Off dinner in the Social Hall. Members are invited to bring a homemade chili pot to share for the Cook-Off meal. Those who come without chili are encouraged to bring a desert or side dish. After sampling the chili, we’ll vote on favorites; winners will receive a prize. We need volunteers of all ages to help fill the service project bags. Join us!

Daily Bread Ministry: Sunday, September 17

On Sunday, September 17, we will prepare and then share a meal with the needy on Pittsburgh’s Northside. Our menu is: *Lasagna (frozen family tray size), Salad (family bag size), Applesauce (individual tubs), bread (loaves of Italian or regular sliced bread), bottles of Lemonade or Iced Tea.* Donations of food items and volunteers to help serve the meal are needed. A sign-up sheet can be found in the church narthex. Multiple amounts of each food item are needed. We expect to serve 150 meals. Compassion for others can be modeled by taking children shopping for food items. Parents and others are encouraged to make this an all-church effort and multi-generational event. Food items are to be returned to the church by Saturday, September 16. Please put frozen items in the church kitchen freezer and refrigerate other items as required on labels.

Psalm 72:12 is a spiritual compass: *God delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.* Let us rally together to do God’s work using our hands.

Sincerely in Christ,

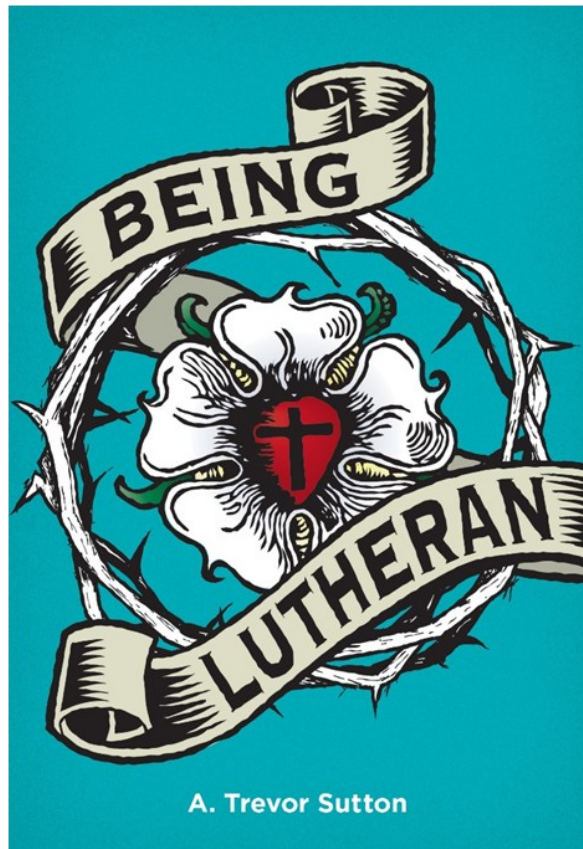
Pastor Doug Heagy



September, 2023

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





MONDAY NIGHT FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP
Registration limit is 12 people

September 11, 18
October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
November 6

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss chapters and vignettes from *Being Lutheran*, by A. Trevor Sutton.

Books are provided free.

To register, call (412-563-0300) or email (mtleboluth@aol.com) the church office.

Beginning in September...

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

“Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples.”

Learning to pray from Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures

10:00 AM-11:15 AM

September 7	A Way of Praying
September 21	Abraham’s Prayer
October 5	Solomon’s Prayer
October 12	The Lord’s Prayer

Led by Pastor Heagy, this four-week study will include video, Bible readings, handouts, and discussions on prayer. Participants will learn forms of prayer for the purpose of beginning and strengthening a piety of daily prayer. All are welcome.



MOUNT LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH NEW ROOF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Dear Members & Friends of Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church:

Recently, when our property insurance was renewed, a building inspection revealed what we already knew: the poor conditions of the flat roof on our education wing and the flat roof on northwest corner of the sanctuary. As a condition of favorable rates, our insurance company strongly advised replacing both rooves. To be clear, they're well past life expectancy and have suffered frequent water intrusions. Therefore, after reviewing options, we have contracted with Pittsburgh Commercial Roofing, the low bidder, to replace both rooves for a total cost of \$60,900.

We regard this capital project as an expression of faithful stewardship and request the participation of all members and friends. Please read the frequently asked questions below and the answers to them. Contact the church office with other questions. A pledge form with options can be found on the opposite side of this document. Please return a pledge in a timely way, but before the end of the 2023 calendar year. The participation of all is urged to fairly share the responsibility of property care.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we undertaking a capital campaign to raise \$60,900 when our church's Stir into Flame fund balance can cover the cost of the rooves?

While it's true the church is blessed with funds, the possibility of sudden, expensive property repairs in the future make it prudent for us not to drain our fund balance. Faithful stewardship means taking responsibility for present and future needs.

Will there be pledge options to fit my personal budget?

Yes, please review the pledge options on the opposite side of this page. There are options for gift amounts and length of payments.

Is it possible to redirect my current pledge already made to the General Fund to this Capital Campaign?

Everyone is free to make personal giving choices, but it is recommended that any gift made for the new rooves not replace current giving. In other words, we hope members and friends will make special gifts above their current giving.

Thanks for your prayerful consideration. All gifts are equal and pleasing to God.

The Executive Committee

**NEW ROOF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
PLEDGE FORM**

In fulfillment of my membership vows and love for Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church, I pledge the following gift for the New Roof Capital Campaign:

Amount (circle one):

\$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$2500

\$5000 \$7500 \$10,000 Other \$_____

Pledge Period (circle one):

In fulfillment of my membership vows and love for Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church, I will complete my pledge payments in the following time period:

One Time Gift Over 6 Months Over 1 year

Over 2 Years

Over 3 Years

Name _____

Pledge Date _____

In the event of unexpected life changes, pledges can be altered or dropped. Gifts are requested from what we have and made gratefully, not with undue pressure on anyone. Thanks for your faithful support of the church in all your service.

Please return this pledge form to the Church office or Sunday offering plate.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Consider ‘Percentage Giving’

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” –Malachi 3:10

Again and again the Bible lifts up tithing – giving a tenth of our income – as a benchmark for faithful giving. The prophet Malachi goes so far as to say God promises to rain down abundant blessings upon those who tithe. Yet most Christians fall quite short of tithing, generally giving less than 3 % to the church. Why? One reason is that in calculating how much to give, most people use the fixed-rate method. They first take stock of how much *they are able* to give, and then how much *they want* to give. Weighing these two factors, they then decide how much *they will* give. There’s nothing particularly bad about this method, but it has limitations. While giving folks an offering amount they can live with, the fixed-rate method doesn’t necessarily put them on the path toward tithing.

A better method is percentage giving, that is, determining your offering as a percentage of income. Here’s how: Using a calculator, divide your weekly (or monthly, or yearly) church offering by your take-home pay for the same period (week, month or year). Then multiply that figure by 100. This gives you the percentage of your giving. For example, if your weekly offering is \$30 and your weekly take-home pay is \$500, your percentage of giving is 6 percent ($30 \div 500 = 0.06$, then $0.06 \times 100 = 6$).

Can *everyone* afford to tithe? Of course not. But many of us, maybe most of us, could afford to give more than we do now. The important thing is to be prayerful about your offering, be as generous as you are able, and keep tithing in mind, perhaps as a goal.

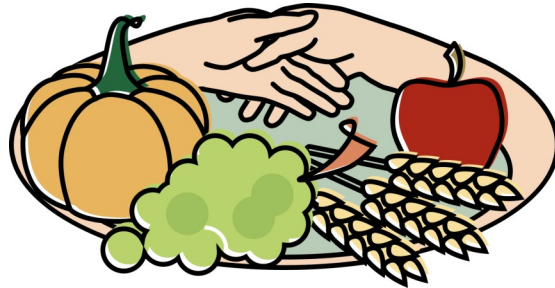
Keeping track of your giving as a percentage of income provides you with information to gauge your offering and perhaps build up to a tithe. You can make it a goal gradually, over time, to increase the percentage until you reach a tithe – 10 %. One simple way would be to increase your giving by one half of a percentage point per year.

As Malachi promises, God will bless you richly for your tithing, and not only that, your church will be blessed, too. Switching from fixed-rate giving to percentage giving is a good start.

--Rob Blezard Copyright © 2017



Daily Bread Outreach Meal



On September 17th at 2:00 pm we will serve a meal for our neighbors on the North Side. Help is needed: food donations and serving volunteers.

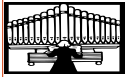
The Menu

- *Lasagna* (frozen tray family/party size)
- *Tossed salad* (family bag)
- *Applesauce* (individual tubs)
- *Bread* (sliced Italian or regular bread)
- *Cookies* (store bought or homemade)
- *Iced Tea & Lemonade* (gallon size)



Food donations are needed to create this meal. the sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex—or call the Church office to pledge the menu items and/or help serve the meal. Thanks to all who will contribute to this vital ministry! ♥





MUSICAL MUSINGS

Happy Fall—The choir is excited to return for the fall season! This summer several of our singers have been involved in exciting musical endeavors. Caryn Crozier-Greco began her new position as Assistant Professor of Voice and Coordinator of Music at St. Vincent College. Corey Nile Wingard was one of the main characters in an original musical, Corporate America the Musical by Anita Spano. It was performed at the Linden Grove on August 20 and 27. Alexandria Zallo took part in Central City Opera’s 2023 Summer Festival in Central City, CO.

Choir resumes with our first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 6th and our first Sunday service on Sunday, September 10th at the 10:00 Liturgy.

Many Blessings,
Chris Keenan



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER, 2023

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 3-Crucifer

8:30 TBD

10:00 Luke Frankovitch

September 10-Crucifer

8:30 Mackenna Cercone

10:00 Quin O'Brien

September 17- Crucifer

8:30 Annaleigh Dwulit

10:00 Gabriel Provins

September 24-Crucifer

8:30 Max Bruno

10:00 Finn Darcy



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 3 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Jeremiah 15:15-21
 Psalm 26:1-8
 Romans 12:9-21
 Matthew 16:21-28
- September 10 Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Ezekiel 33:7-11
 Psalm 119:33-40
 Romans 13:8-14
 Matthew 18:15-20
- September 17 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Genesis 50:15-21
 Psalm 103:8-13
 Romans 14:1-12
 Matthew 14:1-12
- September 24 Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Jonah 3:10—4:11
 Psalm 145:1-8
 Philippians 1:21-30
 Matthew 20:1-16

Rally Day—September 10

Sunday School begins at 10 AM
 in the sanctuary

Catechetical Classes Resume This Month



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 1 classes will be Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30 PM, beginning September 5th.

Level 2 classes will be Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 PM, beginning on September 7th.

Attendance at weekly class sessions, Sunday worship, and Sunday School are requirements. The full set of requirements will be given to students at the first class session. All catechumens will be scheduled to serve at the Altar for worship liturgies. Please note: May 19, 2024 is the date for next year's Confirmation Sunday.

Questions with regard to participation in catechetical instruction should be directed to Pastor Doug Heagy.

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



The 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on October 22 at 9:30 am.
 (in-between worship liturgies)
 Look for more information in the upcoming bulletins.





WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

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

Bishop George Bashore; Craig Elias;
Andy Kelemen; Dagmar Gerst

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.



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 25th.

VISIT OUR LIBRARY THIS FALL

School is back in session. Autumn is in the air. Why not sit back and enjoy a good book. Our library has been reorganized so materials are easy to find and check out! We have something for everyone! Kids, we have a new collection of Bible Super Hero books. Teachers, we have creative resources for you to use with your classes. Have a few extra minutes of class time, use a kids DVD. More to come so stop by soon!



COFFEE and FELLOWSHIP



You are invited for Coffee and Fellowship between services on Sunday morning. This an opportunity to renew acquaintances and make new friends. If you attend the first service, stop in the foyer after the service to talk to other parishioners. If you attend the second service, come a few minutes earlier to meet others. Coffee and Fellowship strengthens our community at Mt Lebanon United Lutheran Church.

We offer coffee or apple juice as well as some snacks. Different members of the congregation host Coffee and Fellowship each week. It takes only a few minutes to brew the coffee and set up the table. If you can host Coffee and Fellowship, please sign up on the list in the foyer.



Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi Sunday, October 1st Blessing of Pets at 10:00 in the Social Hall

We will be collecting supplies for Animal Friends Shelter on Sunday, October 1st 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 2023 Vacation Reading

Darwin: The Voyage of the Beagle

Charles Darwin / Wordsworth Editions / 1997

The journal Darwin kept during his travels on the HMS Beagle between 1831 and 1836.

Faith Active in Love

An Investigation of the Principles Underlying Luther's Social Ethics

George W. Forell / Augsburg Publishing House / 1959

Forell was the Carver Distinguished Chair of Religion in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Iowa. He came to America as a refugee from Nazi Germany in 1939.

Abraham's Dice

Chance and Providence in the Monotheistic Traditions

Edited by Karl W. Giberson / Oxford University Press / 2016

A collection of essays addressing the matters of providence and chance.

The Historical-Critical Method

Edgar Krentz / Wipf and Stock Publishers (Eugene, Oregon) / 2002

First published in 1975 by Augsburg Fortress, this book is an introduction to the type of modern biblical interpretation that has held pride of place for more than a century.

The Vocation Lectures

"Science as a Vocation" / "Politics as a Vocation"

Max Weber / Hackett Publishing Company / 2004

Edited and with an introduction by David Owen and Tracy B. Strong
Influential lectures delivered by Weber between 1917 and 1919 in postwar Germany.

The Judaeo-Christian Tradition

J. H. Hexter / Harper & Row Publishers / 1966

Hexter was a Yale professor and wrote this summary of Judaism and Christianity as part of the publisher's *Major Traditions of World Civilization* series.

Judaisms and their Messiahs at the Turn of the Christian Era

Edited by Jacob Neusner, William S Green, and Ernest Frerichs / Cambridge / 1987

In twelve essays, this book presents early, differing conceptions of the 'Messiah-idea'.

When Prophecy Fails

A Social and Psychological Study of a Modern Group that Predicted the Destruction of the World

Leon Festinger, Henry W. Riecken, Stanley Schachter / Univ. of Minnesota Press / 1956

A social psychology classic that chronicles the experience of a cult that believed the world was ending, and the adjustments made when their prediction failed to materialize.



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 10

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 10

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 & Teachers are commissioned at beginning of Late Worship Liturgy

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

4:00 pm – **Entire congregation is invited to Social Hall** for a time of fellowship and to assemble the Healthy Snack Bag, write blessings and a Chili Cook-off.

Please see the article in this issue for more details and a list of needed ingredients for the Healthy Snack Bags. Donations may be brought to the Narthex by September 3. Sign up for the Chili Cook-off in the Narthex or call the Church Office. See you on Rally Day!



Sunday School Substitutes Needed



Sunday School Teach Substitutes Needed:

- Specific Needs: Pre-K/Kindergarten & Elementary substitutes
- Adults & teens age 16 and older are eligible
- Teachers rotate every other week or a few times a month
- Curriculum is very easy to use
- The kids are a lot of fun!
- Classes meet 10:00 am Sundays
- Contact: Mary Beth at MBTrivilino@verizon.net or call Church office

Appreciation for Donations

Thank you to Congregation and VBS Families for your donations to The Children's Home of Pittsburgh, and Hello Neighbor organizations in July. They are very thankful for the many useful donations for their patients. We collected over 100 donations of educational games, toys, baby items and gift cards!

Our newly refurbished Giving Market was transformed in to a toy store "HeroesRUs" (thank you to Eric and Vedette Keplar!) VBS Children and the Congregation bought/brought donations and added handmade personal heart-shaped notes to recipients. Donations were delivered on August 1st.

"What a joyful donation! The items are all wonderful and our staff were delighted to read all the precious notes from the kids. The notes were such a lovely touch and I know they will bring a smile to children and families. We truly appreciate all the effort and care that went into this project." The Children's Home of Pittsburgh & Lemieux Family Center.



Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran
In Person Sunday School Student 2023- 2024 Registration and Information

[Please Print]

Parents: _____
Address: _____
Family contact email address: _____
Phone Number [s]: _____ cell phone # _____
Child 1: _____ Date of birth: _____
September Grade and School: _____
Allergies / Special Needs: _____
Child 2: _____ Date of birth: _____
September Grade and School: _____
Allergies / Special Needs: _____
Child 3: _____ Date of birth: _____
September Grade and School: _____
Allergies / Special Needs: _____

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

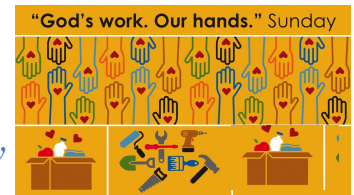
Where/how can you be reached during the Sunday School hour in the event of an emergency?

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

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

*"Train children in the right way,
and when old, they will not stray.
Proverbs 22:6*

Social Ministries and Rally Day Service Project Healthy Snack Bags for Daily Bread Ministries



The ELCA marks September 10 as “God’s Work/Our Hands Sunday”—a day of service among congregations throughout the country. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Our Congregation’s Service Project runs from now through September 10, 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 3.**

On Rally Day, September 10:

*Sunday School kids and families will meet in the Social Hall at 9:35 before Sunday School to decorate the lunch bags and perhaps write blessings.

***At 4:00 pm**, the **entire congregation is invited to the Social Hall for Chili Cook-off** and to help stuff the Healthy Snack Bags and perhaps write a note of encouragement for the bags.

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

Suggested items to donate for our Healthy Snack Bags:

- Bottled Water
- Beef jerky
- Applesauce or fruit cups
- Fruit snacks
- Granola bars
- Small packages of chips, cookies, rice Krispie treats, goldfish, etc
- Cheese or peanut butter crackers (Lance or other brands)
- Individually wrapped mints

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

We are hoping to fill 100+ bags, so please donate what you can. Please make sure items are individually wrapped, and bring them to the Narthex **now through September 3**. 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*

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



Congregational Service Project God's Work Our Hands & Chili Cook-Off

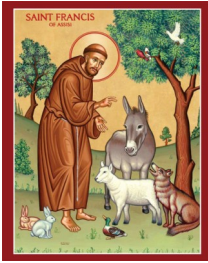
Sunday, September 10

4:00 pm

Families not bringing chili are asked to please bring a side dish, salad, cornbread or desert to share.

**Sign up in the Narthex
or call the Church Office**

Save these dates!



Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi

Blessing of Pets

Sunday, October 1st

10:00 PM in the Social Hall

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

Please see full article on page 10.



Worship Liturgies of Word, Sacrament and Healing

in observance of

The Feast Day of Saint Luke

Evangelist and Physician

Sunday, October 15th at 8:30 and 10:00 AM



The Annual Congregation Meeting

of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

October 22, 2023 / 9:30 AM between the liturgies

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

Stay tuned for more details.



Reformation Sunday

October 29th

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.



Love. Grow. Serve.

A



PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY September 4, 2023



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*

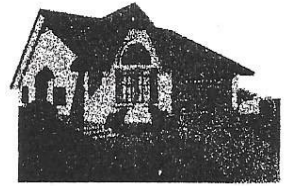


**REMEMBER 9-11 AND THE FAMILIES OF THE
DECEASED IN YOUR PRAYERS.**



Please see registration form on page 14

Nurturing Faith in the Home



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

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

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

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

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

7 Goals For Nurturing Faith In The Home

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

WHEN DOES CATECHISM BEGIN?

Reversing the Trend

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

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

Teaching faith includes...

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

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

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

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

With love for Christ and everyone,

Pastor Doug Heagy





SEPTEMBER 2023



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





- 1** Pray for God's protection, reassurance and wisdom as climate change impacts every aspect of our lives including work, economic systems, community resilience, food stability, immigration, and physical and emotional well-being. Remember in prayer those impacted who are particularly vulnerable to poverty, hunger or illness.
- 2** Give thanks to God for the love and forgiveness we have in Jesus Christ; unshakeable, it endures amid all that seems unstable, temporary and conditional in our world.
- 3** The suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus may not seem logical to us. Pray for the Spirit to reveal the truth of God's profound gift to us through Jesus Christ — love, forgiveness, a new identity and eternal life.
- 4** *Labor Day* On this day we pray for the work people do to sustain themselves and their families and benefit their communities and society. Pray that all will receive fair wages and benefits, work in safe environments, receive respect and gratitude, experience joy and fulfillment in their labor and be renewed through times of sabbath. Remember in prayer also those seeking employment or unable to work.
- 5** Pray for the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, an ELCA Worship partner organization, and the "Hearts Hands Voices" workshops offered across the country for church musicians to learn new skills, share best practices and build relationships.
- 6** Pray for the strength and humility to treat others with love, respect and compassion, especially those whom we find difficult to love or whose politics, personal values, religious beliefs or worldview differ from our own.
- 7** More than 828 million people in the world — including in the United States — experience hunger, and an estimated 2.3 billion face food insecurity, an increase over previous years. Pray that our concern will move us to action and generosity and that our work together through ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Federation and other organizations will bring relief and hope to our neighbors.
- 8** "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart" (Jeremiah 15:16). Pray for the word and wisdom of God to become part of our very being as we study Scripture, hear and share the gospel, and converse with our siblings in Christ.
- 9** Remember in prayer young adult delegates gathering in Wisla, Poland, prior to the Lutheran World Federation Assembly to worship, build community, discuss concerns and priorities, and prepare for the event.
- 10** "God's work. Our hands." *Sunday* On the 10th anniversary of our annual day of service, give thanks for the chance to draw closer to our neighbors and embrace them as children of God, listening with respect and empathy and responding to their needs.
- 11** Ask God to help us understand more fully how our lives and faith express God's love, compassion and respect for the neighbor. "To be your presence is our mission bold, to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold, to be your hands of justice, right uphold, alleluia!" (ELW 546).
- 12** "Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful" (Psalm 149:1). Praise God that worship and the sacraments renew, sustain and equip us as children of God living in communities of faith. Give thanks for the resources that guide and enrich our worship, including ELCA Worship and Faith Practices ministries, Augsburg Fortress publishing and our seminaries.
- 13** Pray for those gathering for the Lutheran World Federation Assembly in [Kraków, Poland](#)—"One Body, One Spirit, One Hope." Ask God to bless and guide our work together as a global Lutheran community for a just, peaceful and reconciled world.
- 14** Remember in prayer African-descent siblings in Christ as they gather for the ELCA African Descent Ministries' RECLAIM event in Minneapolis. Ask God to bless their work building community, teaching new ministry skills and approaches, sharing resources and rejuvenating preachers, teachers, professionals, young adults and laity.
- 15** *First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month* Thank God for the history, contributions and rich cultural diversity of our Latino siblings. Pray for the growth and vitality of ELCA Latino Ministries, the Latino Ministries Association (Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos ELCA) and the 147 ELCA Latino ministries around the country as they work to share the gospel, encourage unity in Christ, fight racism and promote Christian values that unite Latinos of the ELCA in a "community of communities" to do God's work in the world.
- 16** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Sierra Pacific Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, elect a new bishop and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbors in need and grow the church.
- 17** Reflect on what hinders us from exercising forgiveness and patience with others, including those we see as adversaries. Ask the Spirit to recenter our lives and interactions with people in the boundless and undeserved mercy that God demonstrates with us.
- 18** Pray that students and teachers in our schools will be safe and that students who suffer trauma, anxiety, depression and other mental health concerns will have ready access to counselors, social workers and psychologists.
- 19** Pray for the congregations, youth and adults registering for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans and for those who prayerfully consider participating.
- 20** "The prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: 'Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea'" (Exodus 15:20-21). Give thanks for the wonderful variety of instruments and musicians who help us praise God, and recall God's activity in the world throughout history.
- 21** *International Day of Peace* With our global neighbors and siblings in Christ, pray for peace, reconciliation and unity wherever conflict divides our communities and the world.
- 22** Ask God for strength and boldness to fight the rising tide of hate crimes motivated by race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender, gender identity, and social and economic status.
- 23** What an amazing and reassuring gift it is to know that God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love for all people, everywhere. Give praise and thanks to God!
- 24** Pray that we might understand justice, fairness and generosity from the perspective of God, whose creation benefits all humanity.
- 25** Remember in prayer leaders gathering for the "Stewardship Kaleidoscope" conference in Minneapolis, offered in partnership with the Presbyterian Foundation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the ELCA Stewardship and Generosity team to develop deeper understanding of stewardship and generosity and to share resources for cultivating generosity in congregations.
- 26** Pray for ELCA Children's Ministry and its partners, who support and encourage the intergenerational faith formation of Christian communities including family households, congregations and child-centered ministry settings.
- 27** Pray that we will remember the wonderful and miraculous things God has done and revealed to us throughout the history of humankind. Ask the Spirit to help us share — with young and old alike — stories of our faith and of God's presence and activity in the world.
- 28** Give thanks for our ecumenical and interreligious relations and partnerships, which lead to unity and cooperation, mutual understanding and respect, and shared resources for serving our neighbors in need.
- 29** "When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry" (Jonah 3:10-4:1). God's love and justice do not always sit well with us. Ask forgiveness for when we wish ill upon others, and ask the Spirit to inspire our patience and love as we strive to do God's work in the world.
- 30** Pray for God's guidance and wisdom throughout the Future Church: God's Love Made Real initiative as our church tries to discern God's will and navigate the challenges and opportunities of an ever-changing world.

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The Reverend Kurt Kusserow

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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



**Social Ministries and Rally Day
Service Project**
**Healthy Snack Bags for Daily
Bread Ministries & Chili Cook-Off**
September 10 at 4:00 PM



The Annual Congregational Meeting
of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church
October 22 at 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 2024 council member nominations and the proposed 2024 budget. Check your email box in the coming weeks.