

the *Voice* parish newsletter

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

It is a joy and a blessing to introduce myself as your new Director of Music and Organist at Mount Lebanon United Lutheran Church. I am truly grateful for the warm welcome I have already received, and I look forward to getting to know each of you as we worship, serve, and grow together in faith.

I recently graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Music with a Master of Music in Organ Performance. Throughout my studies and career, I have been blessed with opportunities to perform with ensembles including the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra, and the Warren Philharmonic Orchestra. Most recently, I served as Director of Music at Trinity United Church of Christ in Wadsworth, Ohio, where I led the chancel choir, handbell choir, children's choir, and managed a vibrant concert series.

Church music has always been much more than a profession to me—it is a calling. I believe music has the unique ability to proclaim the Gospel, enrich our worship, and bring people together in meaningful ways. Whether through congregational hymn singing, the choir's ministry, the beauty of the organ, or special musical offerings, my hope is that our music ministry will inspire, uplift, and deepen our faith.

Outside of church, I enjoy composing music, cooking, exploring new coffee shops, spending time outdoors, and attending concerts whenever I have the opportunity. I also enjoy meeting new people and hearing their stories, so please don't hesitate to introduce yourself after worship. I would love the chance to get to know you.

Thank you for welcoming me into the Mount Lebanon United Lutheran Church family. I am excited for all that God has in store for us, and I look forward to making music together in the months and years ahead.

Grace and peace,

Hunter Peterson
Director of Music and Organist



August 2026

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

DIGITAL MINISTRY / CONTENT CREATION

I've been thinking a lot lately about what it means to do ministry in a world of digital metrics---views, likes, shares, follower counts that jump overnight, comments that come faster than you can read them, and a dashboard that tells you whether what you just said mattered.

I know a church that experienced great growth—going from a small, familiar online space to hundreds of thousands of people watching, listening, responding. This kind of growth sounds exciting, but also comes with a strange kind of grief. The internet stops being a place you show up as yourself, but a place where people show up expecting a version of you. That's the shift that doesn't get talked about enough. There's a moment—maybe gradual, maybe all at once—when we realize we're no longer just posting. We're being perceived, interpreted, projected onto; known, but not actually known.

In church, people know us because they see us often. Online, that dynamic is a challenge. People, many of whom we will never meet, all form a version of us in their minds. And then there are the clicks, numbers, and here's the honest part: they feel good. When something lands, when a video connects, when the numbers spike—we feel it. There's a validation that old style parish ministry doesn't always provide. Online feedback is immediate, quantifiable, but it's also a danger. Because if we're not careful, the numbers don't just measure our work—they start to shape it. We begin to wonder: Why did that one work? Why didn't this one? What do people want from us? What version of us gets the green arrow and the confetti? And suddenly, without even realizing it, the algorithm is shaping and changing us.

That's the tension. Because there's good happening. The reach is undeniable. The ability to offer a vision of faith to people who may never step into a church building---that matters. But there's also a cost---a subtle shaping of identity, a quiet erosion of privacy, a growing awareness that we can't quite show up anywhere and be just...us. Because someone might recognize us. Because everything is potentially content. Because the line between who we are and what we produce starts to blur.

So what do we do with that? I think the answer is to do digital ministry with more intention, with a deeper awareness that the numbers are not the same thing as faithfulness; that reach is not the same thing as impact; that being known is not the same thing as being in relationship.

If we do digital ministry well, what remains won't just be content---it will be connection. It will be a network of people we know. It will be the work of posting with integrity in a space that constantly tempts us otherwise. And we will be reminded the work was never about the numbers in the first place, even if they made us feel that it was. —from Rev. Jim Keat



THANK YOU WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS!

We are grateful to our dedicated altar guild, ushers, lectors, acolytes, Alan Trivilino and the Evangelism Committee, and Jim Needles, who so willingly continue to serve during these busy summer months at and in preparation for our worship services.

Synod Assembly News

The actions of the 2026 Southwestern Synod Assembly have been posted on the bulletin board in the hallway of education building. Thank you to Pastor Doug & Cindy Brown for attending the Assembly.

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.



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: AUGUST, 2026

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please switch with another server. If you cannot get a substitute call the church office at 412-563-0300 or Pastor Doug at [412] 926-5440; or email the church at mtleboluth@aol.com

August 2-Crucifer

8:30 Finn Darcy

10:00 Delaney Graybill

August 9-Crucifer

8:30 TBD

10:00 TBD

August 16- Crucifer

8:30 Chase Lutz

10:00 Gabriel Provins

August 23-Crucifer

8:30 Adam Timmons

10:00 Xavier Graybill

August 30—Crucifer

8:30 TBD

10:00 Madalena Provins

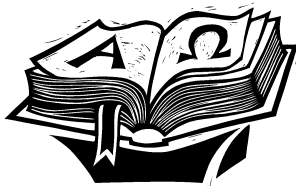


The worship links to Facebook & You Tube can be found on our website:
www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

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

August 2	Time after Pentecost
	Isaiah 55:1-5
	Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21
	Romans 9:1-5
	Matthew 14:13-21
August 9	Time after Pentecost
	1 Kings 19:9-18
	Psalms 85:8-13
	Romans 10:5-15
	Matthew 14:22-33
August 16	Time after Pentecost
	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
	Psalms 67
	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
	Matthew 15:21-28
August 23	Time after Pentecost
	Isaiah 51:1-6
	Psalms 138
	Romans 12:1-8
	Matthew 16:13-20
August 30	Time after Pentecost
	Jeremiah 15:15-21
	Psalms 26:1-8
	Romans 12:9-21
	Matthew 16:21-28



Plan ahead!

Catechism Classes Begin in September

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

The days and times of Level 1 and Level II will be determined by the end of this month.

Level 1 classes focus on the Old and New Testaments.

An orientation meeting for Level 1 parents and new students will be in September. Details are forthcoming.

Level 2 classes cover Luther's Small Catechism, Lutheran theology, and organizational aspects of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held in October. Look for more information in the September Voice Newsletter and upcoming bulletins.

Blessing of Backpacks....



On Sunday, August 23 at the 8:30 and 10:00 worship liturgies, our children and youth are invited to a blessing of their backpacks.. By this blessing, we honor God and affirm our children and youth as they begin a new school year.



ONLINE GIVING

Is now available in association with

 myEoffering

www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

WHAT IS myEoffering?

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

WHY SHOULD I USE myEoffering?

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

HOW DOES IT HELP?

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

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

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



SCAN THIS
CODE WITH
YOUR MOBILE
DEVICE NOW





WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

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

Craig Elias; Andy Kelemen; Linda Larkin; Bill Young; Shari Ehrlich; Dave Young; Patrick Brown; Pete Lester:

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The articles for the September issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by Sunday, August 9th. Articles may be left in the church office or email:

mtleboluth@aol.com.



South Chancel Wall Columbarium

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 in a single niche.

Spaces remain available. Please contact the church office to indicate your interest.

Dear Council Members:

Please have your committee reports for the upcoming Annual Meeting to the Church office by August 9th. Thank you. ♥♥



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

GLOBAL LINKS
Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

Tuesday, August 11

1:00-3:00 pm

**Volunteers Needed To Help Pack Surplus
Medical Supply for those in need.**

If you are interested in volunteering, please see the sign up sheets that will be available in the Narthex during the month of August.

Please contact Sara Dougherty or the Church office with any questions.



SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP IN THE FOYER



All are invited for a time of fellowship between the two Sunday worship Liturgies from 9:30-10 am. Enjoy refreshments, converse with friends, and welcome visitors. Hosts are needed for August. (It's easy and fun to host! Instructions and assistance are provided). Information is available on the signup display in the Foyer.

Vacation Bible School Thanks

We had a wonderful week at the VBS Snowball Mountain Challenge! We had 35 children who got to engage in dramatic bible stories, creative crafts, snowy games, exciting science experiments, yummy snacks and lively music celebrations.

Our service project involved collecting food for snack bags at Daily Bread Ministries. Through this joint drive with the congregation we were able to provide 732 items of food! Many thanks to all who donated and to Sara Dougherty and Deb and Dave Hazlett for organizing this project. Did you know...our VBS service project is called Giving Market? This year marks its 21st anniversary!

We were very blessed to have the help of 48 volunteers who gave their time and talents to help kids learn that they can do all things through God who strengthens them. Many thanks go to all these wonderful individuals:

Co-Directors: Julia Nelson, Liz Hoyson

Organizer/Publicity: Mary Beth Trivilino

Music Director: Carol Vogley, with assistants Ewan Keplar, Leila Brownlee, Christina Irani

Craft Leaders: Jessica Porter, Lisa Honkala, Tom Dowling, Martha Hudak with assistants Annabelle Kegel, Evelyn Loughney, Christina Irani and Grace and Glen Reiner

Science Leaders: Ainsley Smith, Sophie Phillips, Lainey Phillips

Recreation Leader: Jen Kennedy with assistants Joseph Irani, Quin O'Brien and Cam Kennedy

Snack Hosts: Deb Lutz and Laura Spickard

Bible Storytellers: Mary Beth Trivilino with assistants Sage Hilton, Lydia Deluca, Delaney Graybill

Media Tech and Photographer: TJ Nelson, Jim Needles and Jeff Nelson

Puppeteer: Delaney Graybill

Service Project: Sara Dougherty, Deb and Dave Hazlett, Ange Irani and Winter Wilkinson

Registration: Martha Hudak with assistant Larry Dattilo

Office Support: Kris Malia

Custodial Support: Don Snyder

Traffic/Safety: Liz Hoyson, Julia, Jeff, TJ Nelson, Joseph Irani

Thanks to all our **Crew Leaders** who helped children be brave and give it their all: Adam Timmons, Delaney Graybill, Chase Lutz, Niki Harpst, Olive Skocik, Grace Kurta, Madi Harpst, Annaleigh Dwulit, Jaci Harpst, Margot Miller

Thanks to our *Set up and Decorating volunteers* for creating our snowball mountain and for taking it down: Liz Hoyson, Leila Brownlee, Christina and Joseph Irani, Sage Hilton, Evelyn Loughney, Margot Miller, Sophie Phillips, Ainsley Smith, Olive Skocik, Jaci Harpst, Ariana Klaber, Adam Timmons, Anna Dwulit, Tom Dowling, Cathryn Lehman, Monica Aravich, The Keplars, The Nelsons

Thanks to *congregational members* for their prayers and contributions of VBS snacks, craft items, sleds, skates, skis and snow!

Special thanks to *Pastor Doug Heagy* for spiritual guidance and prayers for VBS.

All these talented people worked together to help kids realize that God's strength and presence is with them in every aspect of their life. Thank you!

-Julia Nelson, Liz Hoyson & Mary Beth Trivilino

Rally Day! Sunday School Starts September 13

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 13

8:30 – Early Worship Liturgy

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

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

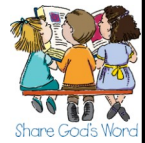
10:15 – Students and Teachers go to Classrooms for Lessons

11:15 – **Entire congregation is invited to Social Hall** for a time of fellowship and refreshments, to assemble the Healthy Snack Bags and write blessings.

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 by September 6. See you on Rally Day!



Sunday School Teachers, and Substitutes Needed



Sunday School Teachers & Substitutes Needed:

- Specific Needs: Pre-K/Kindergarten & Elementary teachers & substitutes
- Adults & teens 10th grade and older are eligible
- Teachers rotate to teach 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 Trivilino at MBTrivilino@verizon.net or call Church office

VBS Mission Project

Our Vacation Bible School Service Project was to collect **Healthy Snacks for Daily Bread Ministries**. These will be assembled into Snack Bags at our God's Work/Our hands event on Rally Day. We are still collecting items. Please bring donations to the Narthex by September 6th.

Suggested items needed include: bottles water (16 oz), beef jerky, applesauce or fruit cups, fruit snacks, granola bars, individually wrapped mints, cheese or peanut butter cracker (Lance or other brands), small packages of chips, cookies, Goldfish, Rice Krispie treats, etc.

*"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."
Hebrews 13:16*



Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran
Sunday School 2026-2027 Student Registration and Information [Please Print]

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

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

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

Please add information for additional children in the family on a separate sheet of paper. Thank you.

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs"*
Matthew 19:14

Social Ministries and Rally Day Service Project

Healthy Snack Bags for Daily Bread Ministries

The ELCA marks September 13th 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 6th, 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 6th.

On Rally Day, September 13:

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

*After the late liturgy, the **entire congregation is invited to the Social Hall for Refreshments** and to help stuff the Healthy Snack Bags and perhaps write a note of encouragement for the bags.

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

Suggested items to donate for our Healthy Snack Bags:

Bottled Water

Beef jerky

Applesauce or fruit cups

Fruit snacks

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 6th**. 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*

Your Place. Your Passion.



Valparaiso University consistently receives national recognition
as one of the best in the Midwest.

5 UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES:

ARTS & SCIENCES • BUSINESS • ENGINEERING • NURSING & HEALTH PROFESSIONS
• CHRIST COLLEGE — THE HONORS COLLEGE

EXPERIENCE LIFE AT VALPO

70+

MAJORS

100+

STUDENT
ORGANIZATIONS

21

DIVISION I
ATHLETICS PROGRAMS

100+

ARTS PERFORMANCES
ANNUALLY

50+

STUDY ABROAD
PROGRAMS

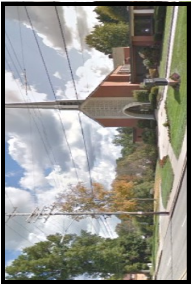
VALPARAISO  UNIVERSITY

valpo.edu

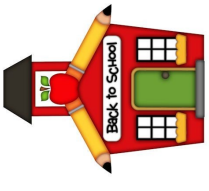
Electronic giving will enable every household or individual to make their church offering using electronic funds transfer or credit card. You may already be using online bill pay for your mortgage, car payment, or insurance premium through an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account.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

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.

Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.



August 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Pentecost 10 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Sunday Fellowship	3 12-2:30 ESL	4 12-2:30 ESL	5 12-2:30 ESL 4:00 Farmers Market	6 12-2:30 ESL	7	8
9 Pentecost 11 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Sunday Fellowship	10 12-2:30 ESL	11 12-2:30 ESL 1-3:00 Global Links	12 9-2:30 ESL 4:00 Farmers Market	13 12-2:30 ESL	14	15
16 Pentecost 12 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Sunday Fellowship	17 12-2:30 ESL	18 12-2:30 ESL	19 12-2:30 ESL 4:00 Farmers Market	20 12-2:30 ESL	21	22
23 Pentecost 13 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship Blessing of Backpacks 9:30 Sunday Fellowship 11:15 Council Meeting	24 12-2:30 ESL	25 12-2:30 ESL	26 12-2:30 ESL 4:00 Farmers Market	27 12-2:30 ESL	28	29
30 Pentecost 14 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Sunday Fellowship	31 12-2:30 ESL					



1 Give thanks for the resources provided by Lutheran Disaster Response, faith-based organizations and community agencies. These resources help us prepare for disasters, develop resiliency and nurture networks of disaster response volunteers, all expressions of our love and care for our neighbors.

2 Ask the Spirit to help us be attentive to our neighbors and siblings in Christ who suffer hunger and to stir us to respond with generosity, compassion and wisdom. Pray that, while responding to their immediate needs, we also work to address the causes of hunger and poverty that plague our society and the world.

3 Pray for God to strengthen families and ground them in the gospel, that they may foster relationships of love and forgiveness, encourage their children, nurture compassion, and accompany one another through the ups, downs and crises of life.

4 Remember in prayer those who are suffering in the aftermath of earthquakes in Venezuela, that they will find comfort as they grieve lives lost and receive support and resources to address their needs for medical care, shelter, safety, basic necessities and spiritual encouragement. Pray for Lutheran Disaster Response, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela, the Lutheran World Federation and other partners who are responding to immediate needs as well as undertaking the long-term work of recovery.

5 Praise God for being gracious and merciful toward us, present with us throughout life, slow to anger in response to our imperfections and attentive to our human needs and suffering.

6 Give thanks for the generosity of ELCA members, congregations and synods expressed through Mission Support, which helps us do God's work in our country and around the world — accomplishing more together than any one person or congregation can do alone.

7 Remember in prayer those who are incarcerated, imprisoned and leaving prison on parole to reenter our communities and rebuild their lives. Pray for the work of the ELCA Prison Reentry and Advocacy Network and Prison Congregations of America, which help us support, accompany and care for our neighbors and siblings in Christ in ways that exemplify God's compassion, justice and mercy for humankind.

8 "Earth is full of wit and wisdom, woven into harmony. Every creature has a purpose, every flower and bumble bee. Spider, human, redwood, gecko, monkey, chicken, mouse and snake live within a single fabric: cloth that only God could make" (ACS 1064). Lift up praise and thanksgiving to God for the wonders, wisdom and beauty of creation! Pray for God to open our eyes to the inextricable and intentional connection we have to creation and the environment.

9 Give thanks and praise to God for *always* being with us on our journey of following Christ, proclaiming the gospel and loving our neighbors, especially when we feel ill-equipped, fearful and even terrified.

10 Give thanks for deacons — rostered ministers of Word and Service — who use their diverse gifts in response to Christ's call to serve our neighbors and embody the gospel in acts of justice, mercy and accompaniment in the church and society.

11 "As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:15). We are invited to share with the world the good news of Jesus Christ, a message of love, forgiveness, reconciliation and renewal. Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our faith in God's ability to use our unique gifts and personalities to touch the hearts of others with the gospel.

12 *International Youth Day (U.N.)* Pray for young people and the challenges they face. Give thanks for their gifts, insights and partnership in doing God's work in the world together. Recognize and lift up the youth in our congregations as valued siblings in Christ.

13 Give thanks and pray for nurses, faith community nurses (parish nurses) and those preparing for vocations in nursing. Pray for the Spirit to equip and sustain them for ministries of healing, wellness and care that attend to the needs of people of all ages in body, mind and spirit and in many different settings.

14 "Let me hear what God the Lord will speak" (Psalm 85:8). Pray for our hearts and minds to be open to the word of God that comes to us through Scripture, siblings in Christ, creation and inspiration stirred by the Spirit, so that our faith may be strengthened and we may be guided, comforted, encouraged and cautioned in our daily lives.

15 Give thanks and pray for teachers, student teachers, custodians, librarians, administrators, counselors, bus drivers and others who are entrusted to educate, inspire, equip and keep safe students of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Give thanks for the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association and its ministry of nurturing a community that helps leaders be stronger, wiser and better equipped for the mission of providing faith-based education.

16 Ask the Spirit to help shape our words and actions so that they build up others, reflect sincere love and concern, and convey the good news of Jesus Christ. Ask for God's forgiveness and mercy when we hurt, disrespect and damage the reputation of our neighbors — intentionally or unintentionally.

17 "The proper prayer is not a deed, not an exercise, not a pious attitude, but the petition of a child to the heart of the Father" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is on the Cross: Reflections on Lent and Easter*). Lift up in prayer today whatever is in your heart and mind, trusting that God is attentive and understanding and not confused by imperfect words, emotional rambling or difficulty in expressing yourself.

18 Give thanks and pray for ELCA Racial Justice Ministries and ELCA Ministries of Diverse Cultures and Communities, that their advocacy, resources and work will help us, individually and as a church, understand and repent of our brokenness, seek reconciliation and healing, and strive to change laws, policies and behaviors that marginalize people of color, neglect those who suffer poverty and vilify immigrants and asylum seekers.

19 Pray for those with whom we serve to do God's work in the world, including other denominations and ecumenical ministries, global companions, the Lutheran World Federation, social ministry organizations, the World Council of Churches, interfaith organizations and faith-inspired networks.

20 Persist in praying that the efforts of peacemakers, mediators and world leaders, imperfect as they may be, will bear fruit in lasting peace, justice and an end to the suffering of those affected by war and conflict.

21 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner 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 for the church and society.

22 Remember in prayer faith-based daycare centers and preschools in our congregations and the leaders, teachers and volunteers who care for children, support parents and nurture faith in Christ.

23 "He asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?'" (Matthew 16:13). Who do you say Jesus Christ is? How do you respond when someone asks about your faith? Lift up your questions and uncertainties to God and ask the Spirit to give you confidence and clarity when you share your faith story and proclaim Jesus Christ as the true savior whom you love, trust and follow.

24 Give praise to God and thanks for people, things and experiences that give you hope, joy and strength today.

25 Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers who accompany global partners in Europe as they serve others in a diverse world and bear witness to the presence and work of a loving and merciful God. Pray that they may be emboldened to work for peace and justice and to care for those who suffer during this time of turmoil in parts of Europe.

26 Pray that our ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries flourish in their ministries of preparing students for lives of faith and vocation, equipping them to use their gifts in response to God's call to share the gospel and love and serve neighbors in need.

27 Give thanks for the impact of congregations that celebrate a long history and presence in their community. Pray for the Spirit to help them grow, evolve and discern what God is calling them to be and do in their community.

28 The Lutheran Campus Ministry Network (LuMin) serves over 175 colleges and universities through ELCA and ecumenical campus ministry organizations, including congregations near campuses. Pray that students, faculty and staff are blessed by the work of LuMin, which builds community, deepens faith, expands minds and inspires service.

29 "When schools flourish, all flourishes" (Martin Luther, *Table Talk*). The Lutheran church has a long, rich history of commitment to faith-based and public education. Pray that we support and encourage education for all ages, abilities and backgrounds for the sake of nurturing students to become confident, skilled, wise, creative, compassionate and service-minded citizens and disciples of Christ.

30 "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are" (Romans 12:14-16). Paul seems to have written this for us today. Ask God to help us live by these words, which denounce vengeance, arrogance, indifference to neighbors and divisive conflict. Encourage us to be humble, forgiving, empathetic and to love our adversaries and those who are different from us.

31 Gift thanks for new members of our congregations. Pray that they experience belonging, growth, encouragement and opportunities to use their gifts together with those of siblings in Christ to do God's work in the church, their communities and the world.

A Very Special Thank-You...

Gretchen Franz has concluded her service as interim Director of Music and Organist on Sunday August 2nd. A special fellowship time was provided to greet and thank her for a wonderful job. Pastor Heagy, Kris Malia, and the congregation extend heartfelt thanks to Gretchen for her outstanding leadership this summer. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her again when she is able to serve with us as a substitute organist.



Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

975 Washington Road

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15228

Church Telephone: [412] 563-0300

www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

www.facebook.com/MtLebanonlutheran

email: mtleboluth@aol.com



The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Kurt Kusserow

Bishop

Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

The Reverend Douglas M. Heagy

Senior Pastor

Mr. Hunter Peterson

Director of Music and Organist

Mr. Larry Allen

Director of Music and Organist Emeritus

Mrs. Kris Malia

Parish Secretary



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 23

8:30 and 10:00 am



**ELCA God's Work, Our Hands
Snack Bag Service Project
Rally Day/Sunday School Begins
Sunday, September 13**



More information in this issue and in the September Voice