

the *Voice* parish newsletter

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. –2 Timothy 3:16

Scams have always been around. Paul wrote of those who proclaimed a ‘different gospel’. In the 11th century, a French squire lamented, “With ink, anyone can write anything.” Forged documents plagued the Middle Ages. The year 1681, however, was a turning point in the fight against fakery. *De Re Diplomatica* (On Diplomatic Affairs), composed by Jean Mabillon, introduced a critical method for determining the authenticity of documents. Pursuant to this publication, historian Marc Bloch said the word ‘criticism’ took on the new sense of being a *test of truth*.

Scams beset us still; AI is making matters worse. The challenge before us is great. Though we’re accustomed to trickery in political advertisements, new scams have raised the bar of deceit.

In the 1970s, when the specter of nuclear annihilation hovered over us daily, I heard a sermon by Billy Graham in which he made the point that God, not humans, will usher in new life from the old. He said we must not be shaken by annihilation threats but keep our trust in God. None of this means we should not earnestly address the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the calamitous use of AI, but it does mean we have a lasting hope that will not fail us in the end.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated in our church on October 25. On this day, we remember Martin Luther’s rediscovery of the pure gospel. Luther, in the face of hostile scammers proclaiming a false gospel, pointed people back to scripture and its message of salvation by grace. He nearly died in his effort to reform the church from its forged, fraudulent messaging.

Join us for worship on Reformation Sunday as we celebrate God’s pure word of salvation by grace. Vigilant in fighting scams, let us also, all the more, be attentive to Jesus Christ. He is the light of truth for the world; he is our Savior and Lord. In him we trust. Christ will lead us to truth and to heaven at last.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy

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



October, 2026

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Wars and Battles in the Bible **A Study of Conflict and Why We Fight**

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

This Bible study is a weekly group discussion.

October 5	The Fall of Jericho / Joshua 6
October 12	The Battle of Ai / Joshua 7-8
October 19	The Battle of Gibeon / Joshua 10
October 26	The Battle of Mount Tabor / Judges 4
November 2	Gideon's Campaign against Midian / Judges 7
November 9	The Benjamite / Civil War / Judges 19-20
November 16	David and Goliath / 1 Samuel 17
November 23	The Battle of Mount Gilboa / 1 Samuel 31
November 30	The Siege of Jebus / Jerusalem / 2 Samuel 5
December 7	Sieges of Jerusalem by Babylon / 2 Kings 24-25
December 14	Armageddon / Revelation 16

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss wars and battles in the Old Testament and the one New Testament war. Our focus will be God's covenant with King David and how this forms our celebration of Advent and Christmas. Optional take-home, supplementary readings will be provided.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

9:30 am- 10:30 am

How the World Began in the Bible

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss stories from the first chapters of Genesis. We will make connections to life today through these origin stories. Take-home, supplementary readings will be provided for optional study.

October 1	Humans / Genesis 1:26-31
October 8	Creation & Evolution / Genesis 2:7
October 15	The Order of the Sexes / Genesis 2:18-25
October 22	The Great Sabbath / Genesis 2:1-3
October 29	The Story of the Fall / Genesis 3:1-21
November 5	The Mystery of Death / Genesis 3:22-24
November 12	Cain and Abel / Genesis 4:1-16
November 19	Insecure Humanity / Genesis 4:17-26
November 26	THANKSGIVING (No class)
December 3	Floods and Fires / Genesis 6-8
December 10	Noah, the Adventure of Faith / Genesis 9
December 17	The Tower of Babel / Genesis 11:1-9

Bibles will be provided. All are welcome.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

When Grace Feels Unfair: Stewarding God's Abundance

There is something wonderfully uncomfortable when reading the book of Jonah 4 alongside Jesus' parable in Matthew 20. People receive something from God and then become angry when others receive generosity too.

Jonah has experienced extraordinary mercy. When he runs from God, God does not abandon him. God rescues him, calls him again, and allows him to participate in the work of bringing Nineveh to repentance. Yet when God extends that same mercy to the people of Nineveh, Jonah is furious. Apparently, grace is wonderful when Jonah receives it. It becomes much more complicated when grace reaches people Jonah does not believe deserve it.

Jesus' parable of the laborers in the vineyard exposes the same instinct. Workers hired early in the morning agree to their wage. At the end of the day, they receive exactly what was promised. The problem begins when they discover that those who worked only an hour receive the same amount.

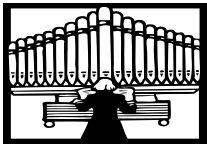
Nothing has been taken from the first workers. Their agreement has been honored. Their anger comes from seeing the landowner's generosity toward somebody else. That may offer us an important stewardship question: How do we steward abundance when it does not benefit us more than somebody else?

We often talk about stewardship through the language of generosity, encouraging people to give more freely from what God has entrusted to them. But perhaps faithful stewardship also requires learning to receive God's generosity without trying to control its distribution. God's grace is not ours to ration. Neither are compassion, welcome, forgiveness, dignity, or belonging.

Scarcity convinces us to compare. Who worked harder? Who has been here longer? Who gave more? Who deserves recognition? Who has earned a place at the table? Once we begin measuring ourselves against one another, another person's blessing can begin to feel like our loss.

But that is not how God's abundance works. Psalm 145 describes God as "gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." The psalmist does not describe a carefully measured supply of mercy reserved for the deserving. God *abounds* in steadfast love.

That abundance challenges churches, too. Congregations can easily develop an unofficial economy of deserving: longtime members over newcomers, large donors over occasional givers, those who volunteer constantly over those who cannot, people whose lives look familiar to us over those whose stories we do not understand. Jonah and Matthew 20 ask whether we can celebrate when God's generosity disrupts those calculations. Can we trust that another person's abundance does not create our scarcity? The greatest sign that grace has transformed us is when we stop keeping score and begin rejoicing that God's goodness has reached somebody else. --Rev. Micah Krey, 2026



Musical Musings

October 2026

October offers us a particularly rich journey through the life of the church. As we move through the month, our worship invites us to consider the goodness of creation, the healing ministry of Christ, and the heritage of the Reformation. Music has a unique ability to help us experience these themes—not simply by telling us something about them, but by giving us opportunities to feel, reflect, celebrate, and participate in them together.

We begin the month with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, whose life and witness remind us of our relationship with the whole of God's creation. St. Francis is perhaps best known for his deep love of the natural world and his recognition of creation as a gift from God. Our celebration, including the blessing of animals and pets, gives us a tangible opportunity to express gratitude for the many forms of life with which we share this world. The music of the day reflects this spirit of wonder and thanksgiving, allowing us to consider creation not simply as something around us, but as something in which we participate and for which we have a responsibility to care.

As the month continues, we celebrate the Festival of St. Luke, traditionally associated with both the Gospel and the vocation of medicine. This gives us an opportunity to think about healing in its many forms. We experience physical illness and healing, but we also know that healing can be spiritual, emotional, and communal. Music has long held an important place in this work of healing and consolation. A psalm, a familiar hymn, or a quiet organ meditation can give voice to things that are sometimes difficult to express in words. The music surrounding St. Luke's Day invites us to reflect on Christ as healer and on all those who participate in the work of bringing healing and wholeness to others.

We conclude October with Reformation Sunday, a celebration especially meaningful within the Lutheran tradition. Music has been central to Lutheran worship from the beginning. Martin Luther recognized the power of congregational song to teach the faith, proclaim the Gospel, and bring people together. The chorale became one of the defining musical contributions of the Reformation, giving ordinary worshipers an active voice in the liturgy rather than making music something that simply happened around them. We continue that tradition every Sunday when we sing together.

At the same time, the Lutheran musical tradition has never been limited to music of the past. From Luther's chorales to the music of Bach and Brahms, and from twentieth-century composers to the contemporary works we hear today, Lutheran worship has continued to welcome new musical expressions. This month's music brings together historic chorale traditions with newer compositions, improvisation, and contemporary approaches to the organ. Works such as Barbara Harbach's setting of Luther's *Ein feste Burg* connect us directly with our heritage, while more recent music reminds us that the tradition continues to grow and speak to new generations.

Ultimately, the music of October reflects something at the heart of Christian worship: we experience our faith through music as much as we hear about it. We sing our gratitude for creation, offer our prayers for healing, remember the heritage we have received, and look toward the future together. My hope is that the music we share this month will create space for each of us to listen, reflect, celebrate, and participate more deeply in the life of our congregation.

Grace and Peace,

Hunter Peterson
Director of Music and Organist

**We are starting to plan...Mark
your calendars now!**



**Advent Pageant
Performance**

December 13 at 11:15 am

Rehearsals:

**December 5, 6, 12, 13
9:30-11:00 am**

More details in Nov. & Dec. *Voice Newsletters*

**“God’s Work, Our Hands”
Social Ministry Project**

Thank you to all in our congregational family who came out to participate in our Rally Day service project. ELCA congregations across the country participated in a day of Social Ministry through the “Gods Work, Our Hands” campaign. Our church created 175 healthy snack bags that were distributed to our friends at Daily Bread Ministries on the Northside. These bags help to fill hunger gaps for the homeless community. Thanks also to all who made food contributions .

**Annual Congregational Meeting
October 18, 2026
9:30 AM**



**SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE:
OCTOBER, 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

October 4-Crucifer

8:30 TBD

Pet Blessing

10:00 Finn Darcy

October 11- Crucifer

8:30 TBD

10:00 Delaney Graybill

October 18-Crucifer - Feast of St. Luke

8:30 Madalena Provins

10:00 Xavier Graybill

October 25—Crucifer—Reformation

8:30 Ewan Kepler

10:00 Adam Timmons



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 You Tube channel

The Word of the Lord

October 4 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Feast of St. Francis/ Pet Blessing

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18 Festival of Saint Luke

Isaiah 43:8-13
Psalm 124
2 Timothy 4:5-11
Saint Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53

October 25 Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

Sunday School at 10:00

*Remember the Sabbath Day
to keep it Holy!*



Catechetical Classes

Catechetical instruction continues on the dates listed.
These classes prepare students for a Public Affirmation of
Baptism, the rite also known as Confirmation.

Level 1 classes—Sundays 11:15-12:15 pm

Level 2 classes—Thursdays 3:15 pm

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. 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.

GLOBAL LINKS
Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

Global Links Update: Our congregation will con-
tinue serving at Global Links again this year. Our
volunteer sessions will be the 2nd Wednesday of the
month from 12:30-2:00 pm starting on **October 14.**
We have a fun group who volunteer but we would al-
ways love more friends to join! Fee free to come to
all the sessions or just one. Whatever works for your
schedule-come and help sort and pack donated medi-
cal supplies to ship to places in need around the globe.
Any questions, contact Sara Dougherty at:
412-523-1499.

2026-2027 Dates:

October 14, 2026
November 11, 2026
December 9, 2026
February 10, 2027
March 10, 2027
April 14, 2027
May 12, 2027
June 9, 2027
July 14, 2027



ONLINE GIVING

Is now available in association with



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

*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 11th**. 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, are 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 3:30—6:30 PM
The Farmers' Market operates through October 28th.

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.



Valparaiso Concert - October 16—7:00 pm

Please join us in welcoming the Valparaiso University Chamber Concert Band on Friday, October 16, 2026 at 7:00 pm. The Chamber Concert Band is the premier band at Valparaiso University. This year's band members come from six states (CO, FL, IL, IN, OH, PA) and represent 20 different majors. The concert programs will present a variety of music, selected to appeal to all audience members. Two selections celebrate Valparaiso University and the inauguration of their new president, Rev. Brian Konkol. Other selections allow us to remember those killed on September 11, continue the celebration of USA 250, and experience popular transcriptions and classic band compositions. The Program will feature works by composers such as David Johnson, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, John Philip Sousa, Eric Keeton-Howard, and more. We hope to see you there!

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 September. (It's easy and fun to host! Instructions and assistance are provided). Information is available on the signup display in the Foyer.

Sunday, October 4

Feast of St. Francis

Pet Blessing observed at 10:00 am in Social Hall

Sunday, October 18

Saint Luke, observed both liturgies

Liturgies of Word, Sacrament and Healing

Annual Meeting October 18

9:30 in the Sanctuary

Hybrid Meeting-Vote In-Person or by Email

Adult Oktoberfest October 18

5:00 pm in Social Hall

Reformation Sunday October 25

Bible Presentation at the Liturgy

Hunger never takes a break...

We continue to donate goods to the **Dormont Free Pantry**, located at 1444 Hillsdale Ave. in the bottom floor of the Dormont Municipal Building, along with our regular deliveries to St. Michael Food Pantry. Goods are still being collected in the coat closet located in the Narthex, and will be transported to the facility on a monthly basis.

The Annual Congregational Meeting
of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church
OCTOBER 18, 2026
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 again 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 2027 council member nominations

Daily Bread Meal...



A traditional Thanksgiving menu is being planned for the next Daily Bread Meal on November 22, 2026. 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.

Stop by the library
October 11th – 25th



Browse our *Martin Luther Collection*
Review a church history timeline
Learn more about church history

**Check out books
on the Reformation**



Bibles for First Graders & New Students

Our First Graders and new students will be presented with their very own Bibles on Reformation Sunday, October 25 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 to be included.

Rally Day Thanks!

We kicked off our 2026/27 academic year on Rally Day, September 13. It was great to see so many students and their families on the first day of Sunday School!

Many thanks to our Sunday School Teachers and Education volunteers! Please see the full list on the next page. Thanks also to Property volunteers for sprucing up our classrooms and Education wing.

It's not too late to register your kids for Sunday School. We have classes for Pre-K/ Kindergarten through 8th grade. Registration forms are in the Narthex and foyer. Contact MBTrivilino@verizon.net for more information or to volunteer.

Sunday School classes each week start in the Sanctuary with a Children's Message from Pastor before heading to classrooms for lessons. We're off to a great start, so join us Sunday mornings at 10:00 am!



Wedding Announcement:

Dave and Deb Hazlett joyfully announce the upcoming marriage of their son, Peter Hazlett, to Elena Prenovitz, daughter of Damon and Sharon Prenovitz.

The wedding ceremony will take place on October 11. The couple resides in Newport, Rhode Island.

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.

Sunday School Teachers and Education Volunteers:

Partners with Parents in Christian Education

Pre-K/Kindergarten (ages 4-6) – Teachers: Milo Bucher & Annaleigh Dwulit

Elementary (1st-4th grades) – Teachers and Substitutes: Travis Timmons,
Jessica Porter, Lizzy Koval, & Andrea Croom

Middle Grades (5th-8th grades) – Mary Beth Trivilino (*Sunday School Director*)
Substitutes: Julia Nelson & Travis Timmons

Children's Choir – Carol Vogeley & Barb Heagy, with Ewan Keplar assisting

Sunday School Service Projects – Debbie Hazlett

Catechetics Instruction and First Communion Instruction– Pastor Heagy

Education Bulletin Board – Eric Keplar

Adult Bible Studies – Pastor Heagy

Church Librarian – Melodie Frankovitch

Educational Ministries Chairperson – Carol Vogeley

Sunday School classes start each week in the Sanctuary with a Children's Message from Pastor before heading to classrooms.

Children's Choir practices every other week at the end of class. First Graders and new students receive new Bibles on Reformation Sunday. Children are encouraged to bring their Bibles to class.

First Communion Instruction will take place in April and/or early May.

If you would like to teach or substitute in Sunday School, please contact Mary Beth Trivilino at MBTrivilino@verizon.net

--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 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

2026 Annual Thanksgiving Outreach Project

Our Annual Thanksgiving project will soon be underway. **The Giving Market will open for donations on Sunday, October 11.** As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, let's come together to serve those in need. This outreach will help provide Thanksgiving meals for families using the Dormont Food Pantry. Adults and youth are invited to help with the project's activities listed below.

Donations

We are asking for donations of specific nonperishable food items and Giant Eagle gift cards. Please bring your donations to The Giving Market in the Narthex beginning Sunday, October 11. We need all donations by Sunday, November 8.

- **Cans:** Veggies, fruits, cranberry sauce, yams, pie filling, and gravy
- **Boxes:** Cornbread, potatoes, stuffing, rice, and dessert mixes
- **Envelopes:** Gravy

Gift Cards: Giant Eagle gift cards (\$10 to \$25 preferred)

Please, no glass! Thank you!

Craft Kits

Thanksgiving craft kits will be available at The Giving Market to 'take and make' at home. Please return your completed crafts by Sunday, November 8.

Youth Volunteers

Youth are invited to help at The Giving Market on Sunday mornings. Sign-ups are available for October 11, 18, 25, and November 1, and 8.

Meal Bag Assembly

Join us to help assemble Thanksgiving meal bags on **Sunday, November 15 at 11:05 AM** in the Social Hall. Refreshments and fellowship are included!

Thank you for your generous support and participation (our 27th year!). We hope that you are able to participate in this opportunity to share God's blessings and love with our neighbors.

Please contact Deb Hazlett at drhazlett@verizon.net if you have questions or would like to help.

"For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore, I command you, saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy, and to your poor in your land.'"

— Deuteronomy 15:11



Reformation Sunday October 25



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 31, 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 25th as we remember Martin Luther and celebrate Reformation Sunday.

Castle Church -1517
Wittenberg, Germany



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES HAVE A STUDENT AWAY AT COLLEGE?

This fall, the Youth Ministries Committee will be sending care packages to our members away at college. If you would like your student to be included, please contact the church office with their address/ mailing details. Let your child know we're thinking of them and wishing them success as they continue their education.

WANT TO HELP?

Any member wishing to help the Youth Ministries Committee put together the packages for our college students can contact Neil Bucher at bryl66@gmail.com or 412-851-1029. We hope to have packages mailed out this month.



Worship Liturgies of Word, Sacrament and Healing

in observance of

The Feast Day of Saint Luke

Evangelist and Physician

Sunday, October 18 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 18, in observance of the Feast Day of Saint Luke. **Both Sunday morning liturgies will emphasize healing on this day.**

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].

The Feast Day of Saint Luke (continued)

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.

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.



All Saints' Sunday Sunday, November 1st

On All Saint's Sunday, it is our tradition to observe one of the liturgical treasures of the historic church. **We will have ONE liturgy on Sunday, November 1, at 9:30 AM. During this liturgy, prayers will be made and candles will be lit to remember by name those who've died *since the last All Saints' Day (whether or not they were members of our congregational family)*.** [Note: Nov. 1 is the actual day of All Saints] Also, we will remember those who gave 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 18th.

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 1 at 9:30 AM

Please remember :
[please print]

Name _____

Died _____

Name _____

Died _____

Submitted
by _____

Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi

Sunday, October 4- Blessing of Pets at 10:00 in the Social Hall

We will be collecting supplies for Animal Friends Shelter on Sunday, October 4 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



WORSHIP BULLETINS/ FLOWERS....



Some dates are still available to sponsor worship bulletins or altar flowers before year end! Contact the church office if you would like to sign up. The cost is \$30 each vase for flowers, and \$25 for Worship bulletins.

Choir Update:

We are pleased to announce new names for our two choir groups! The Schola will be the name of our ensemble of staff singers. The Schola serves as the core singing ensemble and supports the musical life of our worship services. The Senior Choir is the name for the full choir, bringing together both our staff singers and our dedicated volunteers. This is the larger choir that sings together for services and special occasions. We are excited about these names and the way they reflect the different roles and contributions of everyone who helps make our choral ministry possible. Thank you to all of our singers for sharing your time, gifts, and love of music!

DEAR THRIVENT MEMBERS OF MOUNT LEBANON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Looking for an easy way to support and strengthen our congregation? Participate in Thrivent Choice®, Thrivent's charitable outreach program.

Through Thrivent Choice, you can contribute to our church, directing how Thrivent distributes its charitable funding.

Thrivent Choice provides an online giving platform where you can make personal donations. And Thrivent pays the processing fees, so 100% of your donation goes to help our congregation.

Eligible Thrivent clients with membership recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its outreach funding by directing Choice Dollars® to any of the thousands of enrolled churches and nonprofit organizations, including Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church.

To date, since the program's inception, Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church has received funding through Thrivent Choice.

If you previously made a donation or directed Choice Dollars to us, we thank you for your support! If you haven't yet participated in Thrivent Choice but would like to do so or learn more about it, visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice. You can also contact the church office.

On behalf of Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church, thank you for supporting our important work and helping to make good things happen. Contact the church office for more information on how to contribute Thrivent Choice money to the church.

Sincerely,

The Stewardship Committee of Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church

* Thrivent will pay up to \$300,000 in online processing fees per calendar year for personal donations made through Thrivent's online giving platform.

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients with membership and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purpose under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's terms and conditions available at thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

25951L R2-22



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 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:30 Bible Study 3:15 Catechetics II	2 6:30 Documentary: "Condemned: The Prison Problem" Social Hall	3
4 Feast of St. Francis 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Pet Blessing 11:15 Catechetics I	5 7:00 Bible Study	6	7 3:30 Farmers Market 7:00 Choir	8 9:30 Bible Study 3:15 Catechetics II	9	10
11 Pentecost 20 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Catechetics I	12 7:00 Bible Study	13	14 12:00-2:00 ESL 3:30 Farmers Market 7:00 Choir	15 9:30 Bible Study 12:00-2:00 ESL 3:15 Catechetics II	16 7:00 Valparaiso Concert	17
18 Feast of St. Luke 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:30 Annual Congregation Mtg 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Catechetics I 5:00 Adult Oktoberfest Fellowship	19 12:00-2:00 ESL 7:00 Bible Study	20 12:00-2:00 ESL	21 12:00-2:00 ESL 3:30 Farmers Market 7:00 Choir	22 9:30 Bible Study 12:00-2:00 ESL 3:15 Catechetics II	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday 9:30 Worship 9:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:15 Catechetics I	26 12:00-2:00 ESL 7:00 Bible Study	27 12:00-2:00 ESL	28 12:00-2:00 ESL 3:30 Farmers Market 7:00 Choir	29 9:30 Bible Study 12:00-2:00 ESL 3:15 Catechetics II	30	31



1 Pray for scientists, pastors, science teachers and others who explore the intersection of faith and science through the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology. Ask for God's wisdom to discern the benefits, consequences and use of technology to promote the well-being of humankind, communities and creation.

2 Ask the Spirit to guide and bless members of the ELCA Church Council as they support the work and mission of the ELCA churchwide organization. Give thanks to God for their faith, gifts and diligence

3 Remember in prayer youth and adult leaders gathering for the ELCA Gathering Expedition retreat at Lutherhill camp in La Grange, Texas. Pray that their weekend together will nurture faith, stir questions and discussions, and connect them more deeply with one another — siblings in Christ who find strength and nourishment in community.

4 Today the Rev. Yehiel Curry is being installed as presiding bishop of our church. Give thanks to God for faithful leaders who inspire and guide our church to be passionate, creative and tireless in proclaiming the gospel and doing God's work in the world.

5 Pray for the Spirit to guide and inspire those gathered for the Conference of Bishops as they worship and study together, advise the presiding bishop on churchwide planning and ecumenical relations, review proposals for the ELCA Church Council, and work on matters related to rostered ministers.

6 "The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you'" (Luke 17:5-6). Praise God for judging us not by the depth of our faith but through a lens of love, forgiveness and concern for us as treasured children.

7 Give thanks for ELCA Youth Ministry and the ELCA Youth Ministry Network. Pray for their faith formation programs, leadership training events and resources for youth, and for leaders serving in children, youth and family ministries.

8 In the first eight months of this year, there were 292 mass shootings and more than 28,400 gun-related injuries and deaths (gunviolencearchive.org). Pray for those who suffer grief and trauma due to gun violence or accidental shootings. Ask God to help us be steadfast and wise in our advocacy to end gun violence and our care for those impacted.

9 Give thanks for our siblings in Christ — near and far — with whom we join in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, who frees us from the bondage of death, gives life, renews our hope and sets us on a path of compassion, service and generosity.

10 Pray for musicians and worship leaders participating in the Music that Makes Community retreat in Albuquerque, N.M., that they will sharpen their skills for leading songs and instrumental music in faith communities.

11 Ask God to bless the work of farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers. Give thanks for their vocations and the diverse roles they play in bringing food to our tables and around the world.

12 In the Gospel of Luke, when 10 men with a skin disease approach Jesus in search of mercy and healing, Jesus never hesitates. Give thanks to God for attending to our needs and tribulations, and for the love and forgiveness that flow to us through Jesus Christ.

13 *Indigenous Peoples' Day* Today we remember and honor Indigenous people — our neighbors and siblings in Christ. Lift up prayers of gratitude for the cultures, traditions, spirituality and history of Indigenous people and tribal nations. Ask the Spirit to guide and enrich our lives together, helping us remain faithful to our shared journey toward truth and healing in the church and society.

14 "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation" (Psalm 111:1). Give thanks to the Spirit, who gathers us together in community to praise God, reflect on the word of God, celebrate the sacraments, respond to the needs of our neighbors and encourage one another in doing God's work in the world every day.

15 Give thanks and praise for God's inexhaustible grace, which liberates us from despair when we feel ill-equipped to deal with our troubles.

16 Give thanks and pray for those in our communities who serve in law enforcement, that they will be safe, affirmed in their vocations and led by the Spirit to exercise justice, fairness and wisdom in their duties.

17 Pray for ELCA campus ministries, that their reach and impact will grow among students, faculty, staff and others through worship, study, fellowship and service. Give thanks for the work of Lutheran Campus Ministry Network, which strengthens and supports campus ministry by equipping and connecting leaders and by advocating for ministry on college and university campuses.

18 *Luke, Evangelist* Ask the Spirit to help us express our faith, share the good news of Jesus Christ with confidence and enthusiasm, and invite others to join the community of siblings in Christ who do God's work in the world.

19 Ask God to grant justice to those who suffer discrimination and inequity, and ask the Spirit to help us be bearers of God's justice in the world.

20 Remember in prayer our ministries in seven countries in Asia and the Pacific region. Pray

for ELCA Global Mission personnel and Young Adults in Global Mission who work alongside companion churches to spread the gospel, equip leaders, teach, respond to community needs and strive for justice.

21 "The time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths" (2 Timothy 4:3-4). Pray that the Spirit will give us insight and guidance when we struggle to distinguish God's truth from the falsehoods that lead us astray.

22 Ask God to strengthen and sustain those who work for peace between nations, including diplomats, negotiators, religious leaders and heads of state. Pray that they will find new ways to work though impasses, implement just and lasting peace agreements, and address the needs of those impacted by war and civil conflict.

23 Pray for congregations going through challenging times, that they will find resources and assistance to renew their sense of mission and their resolve to be God's loving presence in their communities.

24 Pray for Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, that his faith, his ministry experiences and the counsel of his siblings in Christ will inspire wisdom and equip him for guiding our church and its leaders to be persistent and creative in proclaiming God's restorative love.

25 Ask God to help us create safe and uplifting communities of faith where all people can gather to hear the word of God, share the good news of Jesus, celebrate God's amazing love and promises, care for one another and encourage one another to follow Christ in our daily lives.

26 *Reformation Sunday* Give thanks for our living, growing and changing church, which asserts its identity and purpose in the good news of Jesus Christ — God's free gift of grace and new life for the world.

27 Pray for refugees and immigrants in our country and throughout the world, that they will be welcomed by communities and churches that accompany them through the challenges of rebuilding their lives.

28 Pray for Racial Justice Ministries of the ELCA and give thanks for a gospel proclaiming that Christ's church is for *all* people. Ask God for the courage to confront racism and seek fairness and justice in the church and society.

29 Lift up prayers of thanksgiving and joy that in God we find strength, life, happiness, hope and an eternal home.

30 Remember in prayer students who experience difficulties in school — academic, emotional, physical or social. Pray that they will receive care and support from teachers, counselors and peers so that they will grow confident and thrive.

31 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Allegheny Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

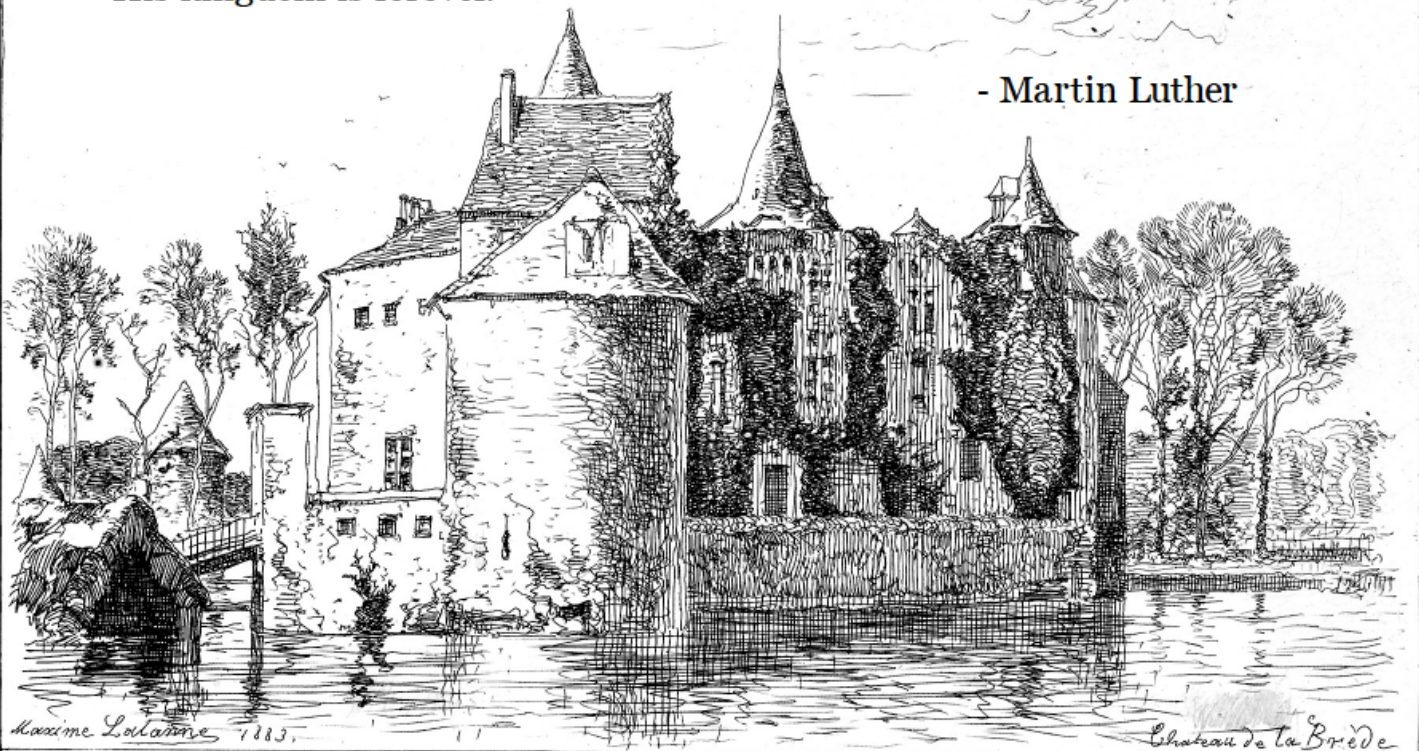
A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us;
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

- Martin Luther



Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

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The Reverend Yehiel Curry

Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Melissa Stoller

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



The Annual Congregational Meeting

of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church



OCTOBER 18, 2025
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 again 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 2027 council member nominations and the proposed 2027 budget. Check your email box in the coming weeks.