

The Way Up

Mount Lebanon
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Gathering | Growing | Connecting | Giving | Going

October 2023

**WHOEVER ISOLATES HIMSELF
SEEKS HIS OWN DESIRE;
HE BREAKS OUT AGAINST
ALL SOUND JUDGMENT.**

Proverbs 18:1

Four Mottos for our Life Together

Mottos have a way of unifying, of infusing purpose, focus and agenda into the hearts and minds of those who belong. Over the next four months, we'll propose four mottos for our life together.

Motto #1: The lone sheep gets picked off.

We live in a deeply individualistic society. You can see it if you walk down to the Apple store. Almost everything in their store is called an "i" something. iPhone. iPad. iMac. iTunes. We have our own personal styles, our own personal likes and dislikes. We even like to do things all by ourselves. And none of this is all evil or bad in and of itself, but what I've noticed more and more is that we as Christians tend to isolate ourselves from each other, especially when we're going through something really hard. We tend to isolate ourselves when we're struggling with a sin because we don't want anyone to know about our struggle. We tend to isolate ourselves when we're really discouraged or depressed because we're going to deal

with this ourselves. We even tend to isolate ourselves when it comes to our thinking about Bible things. We tend to think of confession of sins in this way. We tend to think of prayer in this way. It's something that happens only between us and God. And that's true.

But check out the wisdom of Solomon: **"Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment." Proverbs 18:1.** It's just plain foolish to isolate yourself, especially when it comes to your spiritual life. When you do that, you're breaking out against all sound judgment. This is the way it works in the animal kingdom. If a lion is creeping up on a herd of antelope or zebras, which one is he looking for? He's looking for the one that is all alone and isolated from the rest of the herd. He's looking for the one that is all by himself.

And that's the way that old lion, the devil, works too. He waits for us to isolate ourselves, to do faith and life all by ourselves. If the devil can get us all by ourselves, he can get us to think all kinds of things that aren't true. He can get us to fall into all kinds of

The Mount Lebanon Values:

1. We have ONE faith.
2. We are ONE ministry.
3. We embrace each other as ONE family.
4. We rejoice in the MANY parts.

We are a community for the community with Jesus as our heartbeat

sin. He can even get us to despair. If the devil can get us all by ourselves, he can get us to fall for just about anything because there is no one there to warn us, to comfort us, to guide us and direct us.

And it's not just the devil who leads you astray. Who in your life talks to you the most? It's you. No one in your life talks to you more than you do. But now consider, what happens when your thoughts go against Scripture and you keep thinking those thoughts? Who is going to stop you if you're all alone? Who is going to redirect you? Correct you? Comfort you? The answer is simple. If I'm all by myself I can believe what I want, do what I want, because there is no one there to stop me.

That's why Jude speaks to us as a group. See if you can catch it. **But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life – Jude 20-21.** Did you catch it? Jude speaks us as a group, as a community, as one body. The way that animals naturally operate tells us this. You don't have a single lion here or a single lion there. You have a pride, a group or family of lions. You have a gaggle of geese flying south for the winter. You have a flock of birds here or there. You have schools of fish. You have flocks of sheep. You have a pack of wolves. The animal kingdom tells us that together we're better and together we're stronger. You notice

the same thing when it comes to military wisdom and practice. We don't typically send one guy off on his own to do a job. We send a battalion.

We know and understand intuitively that it's foolish to go it alone because the lone sheep usually gets picked off. The same is even more true in the Christian church and within a Christian congregation. It's a bad idea to go it alone; it's better to do life together.

More on that next month. PB



A Service of Remembrance:

Finding Hope in God at the loss of children, unborn and born.

Mayo Clinic estimates that 10-20% of pregnancies end in miscarriage, but then admits that the number may actually be higher since some women miscarry before they even know about their pregnancy. A textbook in Italy suggests that the percentage of miscarriages may be closer to 60%. And if we add in the loss associated with still birth, the death of a child early on, and other kinds of infant deaths, the numbers are truly heartbreaking. The numbers are truly staggering, but the church has often not provided a way to mourn to the loss and to find hope in Jesus. We have funerals for those who die, but, at the most, we say a prayer for those who suffer such a loss. There is no coffin.

There is no service. There is often no closure. One pastor said: "Too long, too often, we have let mothers and fathers grieve alone." We want to provide such hope to the people of God who mourn such loss.

At Mount Lebanon, on **Wednesday, November 1**, we will hold a **"Service of Remembrance"** for those who seek hope in God at the loss of children, both unborn and born. The service will be at **6:30 pm** with light refreshments to follow for those who desire to share additional time and fellowship. We know that it may be difficult for parents with young children to come to such a service on a weekday evening, so we will provide a \$30 gift to help parents to get a babysitter. You will be able to request the help by registering for the event or by contacting the church office. **We pray that this service will be a blessing to you.**



Trunk or Treat - 10/28

Help us bring a safe space to trick or treat to Milwaukee. We are looking for people to be creative in decorating their vehicle trunks or

helping decorate inside the community room. We need help setting up, taking down and, of course, help to provide candy to give away. **We are planning for 700 children!** This is a community project, and we need your help.

Talk to Ruth Bourman or sign-up to help here: https://bit.ly/Support_Trunks_Treats_2023



Faith Builders Sunday
October 15 + 9:30 am

Scholars from our school will sing.
Lunch together
Build together.
We will have specific projects identified to continue to help us prepare for our new building project.

Mount Lebanon School Update

Greetings members of Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church!

Throughout your school campuses you will see the word **transform**. So you can be fully equipped to speak about the exciting school ministry at Mount Lebanon, it is important to know why the word transform serves as a great summary of our school's mission. The word transform is the action verb that begins the school's mission statement: Transforming children and families for life and eternity. This foundational concept is taken from Romans 12:2: *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

The transformative work of our school mission can be summarized with two points:

- The gospel connects students and families to Christ, and His sacrifice transforms - through faith - for eternal life in heaven.
- Empowered by the gospel, students are transformed for life here on earth. Young Christians are equipped with the knowledge and attitudes they need to succeed in this life.

Each and every day students are reminded they fall short of God's expectations. Each and every day they are lifted by the unconditional love seen perfectly only in Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Children are being transformed for eternity with the Word of God.

Children are also being transformed for this life. High behavioral and academic expectations are the norm. Our incredibly dedicated faculty and staff, along with caring members of our church and school families, work tirelessly to raise academic achievement. This team also disciplines and instructs with a spirit of love, joy, peace, kindness, and patience.

Children are being equipped with the knowledge and attitudes they need to succeed in this life.

As you have the opportunity to share with others the exciting mission of your school, remember the word **transform** - the gospel transforms for life and eternity! Please continue to support, promote, and pray for the work of Mount Lebanon Lutheran School.

In Christ,
Ryan Finkbeiner, Principal

Annual Golf Outing



The Mount Lebanon annual golf scramble is back for the 10th year in a row! It will be held at Kettle Hills Golf Course on the Rolling 9 on Saturday, October 14th at 12:30pm. Over the last 4 years, Mt. Lebanon has used this event to contribute to our Mahnke Student Aid Fund which supports Mt. Lebanon students who choose to attend one of our ministry training schools. It is a very casual and fun outing of just 9 holes with games and prizes! It is open to men, women, children, and the format is a scramble, so you don't have to be a great golfer to participate. We'd love to be able to raise \$2,000 for our Student Aid Fund and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship at the same time.

Please sign up or share using the link below. Or if you don't have an interest in golf, but would like to contribute to the Student Aid Fund, please note that in the offering basket or use our online donation platform to contribute.

Questions? Contact Mr. Matteson via cell phone at 734-255-6215.

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/MtLebGolfOuting2023>.



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Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church

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Sermons online at www.theMountMKE.com/sermons

Worship: Sundays at 9:30 am

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