**July 17, 2016 8:30 & 10:45**

**9th Sunday after Pentecost**

 “The goal of mature Christian life is essentially a life of communion with God. The maturing process in terms of consciousness involves an awareness of God’s presence which grows from loving communication to intimate communion. It is an ever-deepening relationship with God and an agape (self-giving love) relationship with others, leading to an activated faith which embraces the world.” Prayer In Action by Miriam Murphy

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymn 377** It is well with my soul (stanzas 1 and 2)*Ville du Havre*

 **Worship & Song 3118** Take this moment (stanzas 1, 4 and 5) *Take this moment*

**Call to Worship**

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name, make known God’s

deeds among the peoples! Sing to the Lord, sing praises!

*Psalm 105:1,2*

**Hymn 126 S**ing praise to God who reigns above (stanzas 1, 4) *Mit Freuden Zart*

**Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,**

**the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.**

**With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur**

**Stilled: To God all praise and glory!**

**Let all who name Christ’s holy name give God all praise and glory**

**let all who own his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story!**

**Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ**

**alone: To God all praise and glory!**

**Our Church in Action**

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymn 185** When morning gilds the skies (standing) *Laudes Domini*

**Affirmation of Faith and Act of Praise** ( standing)

Leader: Let us hear St. Paul’s testimony to his faith and make it our own. “God shows His love for us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”

**People**:(sung) **May Jesus Christ be praised!**

Leader: “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel. It is the saving power of God for everyone who has faith.”

**People**: **May Jesus Christ be praised!**

Leader: “For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**People:** **May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Prayer of Confession**

Leader: O creative and generous God, You are the Giver of time. How often our busyness with trivia interferes with communion with You and involvement with Your children’s needs!

**People**: **(sung) Hymn 399** Take my life, and let it be

**“Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my moments**

**and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.”**

Leader**:** When a bold stand has been demanded by Your justice and love, cowardice and apathy have often silenced us. We have grown accustomed to luxury, while others starve

**People**: **Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King!** **Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt choose.**

Leader: Our pleasures and desire for warm, personal feelings have overshadowed Your call for obedience and compassion. We have been reluctant to give our whole lives to You. Forgive us. Help us now to mean and live what we sing—

**People**: **Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart; it is Thine own. It shall be thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Hear the promise of God; “If with all your heats you seek Me, you shall find Me.: “I will forgive your sins and I shall put them as far from you as east is from west.”

**People**: **Thank You, most merciful God, for those words of release and cheer.**

**… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**The Sign of Peace** *Please pass the peace to your neighbors as a sign of reconciliation and love.*

 Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
 People: And also with you.

Gathering Song *James Ritchie*

 This, this is where children belong,

 welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.

 Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:

 This is where children belong.

 WORDS: James Ritchie MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Kim Rhoton, Director of Christian Education

All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward. After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to Asbury Center near the end of the service.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Hymn 601** Thy word is a lamp (seated) *Thy Word*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Kathy Tremblay

 10:45 Hazel Cope

A Lesson from the Epistles

 Colossians 1:15-29 The supremacy of Christ

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

 **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospels (standing)

 Luke 10:38-42 Mary and Martha’s greetings to Jesus

 **Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 *Spiritual, arranged by David and Allen Pote*

I’m gonna live so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I’m gonna work so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I’m gonna pray so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I’m gonna sing so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime.

Use me, Lord, use me, Lord, I’m gonna live so God can use me….

**Doxology 94** (standing)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon “What Holds Life Together? “** Bishop George W. Bashore

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymn 149** Let’s sing unto the Lord (standing) *Rosas*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flower arrangement** provided for worship today is given in loving memory of Vaughan, Debra, Paul, and William and Bessie Murray.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Chancel Choir.

**Our hymnal** and the new hymnal supplement are rich resources. As we explore newer texts and tunes we will repeat them during the month so that we are more comfortable singing them.

**Greeters 8:30**  Marsha Manke **10:45**  Gwen Lammert

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Flower Donations** The church is in need of Sunday flower arrangements. Honor or remember a loved one or friend with your donation. Contact Sharon Slater, 412-343-1137.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons** Would you like to share this morning’s sermon with a friend or did you miss a Sunday? Catch up on the messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons from the past three months are at

http:// mlumc.buzzsprout.com. You can navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, www.mlumc.org, through the app, Stitcher or through iTunes.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Colossians 1:15-29**

15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;

16for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

18He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

20and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

21And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

22he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—

23provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

24I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church.

25I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,

26the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints.

27To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

29For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me

**Luke 10:38-42**

38Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.

39She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying.

40But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.”

41But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 42there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Earl Killian, Montefiore

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Jean Bouvy, McMurray Hills Manor

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

Pat Seitz, Concordia

**Convalescing at Home**

Joyce Feldman, May Frederick, Ann Hoyer, Andy Smith

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

**Capt. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Adam Kmick
PFC Brendan Lamport
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda
Lt. Col. Mark Patterson

Lt. Com. Scott Patterson

Lt. Col. Sean Patterson
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes
Capt. Azizi Wesmiller

Capt. Matthew C. Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski

Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

**Looking to send a card? Here are some helpful addresses:**

UPMC Montefiore Hospital

3459 Fifth Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

McMurray Hills Manor

249 W McMurray Road

McMurray, PA 15317

Concordia Health Center

1300 Bower Hill Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

**From Rev. Lutz and Martina Brückner:**

*Hello friends in Pittsburgh and Mt. Lebanon,*

*I would like to thank all of you for greetings of farewell from Zwickau and for good wishes for our new beginning in our new congregation close to Zwickau. Martina and I were very pleased! You have become very important in the last seven years, like sisters and brothers. Coming to Pittsburgh, was always a bit like coming home for us. Together we did a lot - in Pittsburgh and in Zwickau. And we like to remember beautiful encounters and moments. Martina and I wish you as a congregation and as individuals God's blessing on your ways. Be guarded and guided by God. And we hope that we can see each other in 2017 - in Zwickau (if you come to Germany) and in Pittsburgh (the children's choir "The Butterflies" plans a tour of Pennsylvania in the fall of 2017).*

*Be blessed,*

*Martina and Lutz*

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, JULY 17 THRU SATURDAY, JULY 22**

**SUNDAY 7/17**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Faith for Today Asbury Center

 9:30-10:30 am Kids’ Sunday School Room 204

 9:30-noon Nursery Room 204

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 5 pm Youth Group Asbury Center

 6:30 pm BSA Board of Review Various

 7 pm Eagle Valley District Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 7/19**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Trustees Welcome Center

**WEDNESDAY 7/20**

6 pm Homebuilders Picnic Wesley Hall