**January 7, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**Baptism of the Lord**

God claims us as God’s own. That identity – sealed in water through baptism, sealed in fire through testing, sealed by the Spirit through growth and rebirth – this identity is transforming and calling us forth. Our only authentic response is one of love – love of God and of God’s people.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymnal 237 Sing we now of Christmas** *French Carol*

 **Worship and Song 3131 Hear my prayer, O God** (stanzas 1 and 2) *Hymn Chant*

**Greeting**

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

**People: Declare God’s glory among the nations; declare his wondrous works among all people.**

*Psalm 96:1, 3*

**Announcements**

**Introit** 10:45 Arise, shine! *Thomas Keesecker*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**Call to Worship**

Leader: The One who created us, formed and made us, calls to us.

**People: We are here to listen and respond.**

Leader: God has claimed us and named us beloved.

**People: We rejoice in this transforming identity.**

Leader: Touched by the Spirit, washed in the renewing water, and set aflame with God’s love, let us worship and praise our beloved God.

*Joanne Carlson Brown*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal** **246 Joy to the world** (standing) *Antioch*

**Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**Loving and caring God, you call us out of the waters, out of the fire, and through the breath of the Spirit. You call us to embrace our identity as your beloved, to let this identity shape our worship, and indeed our very lives. In trust, we open ourselves during this time of worship, that we might receive your transforming Spirit, and be touched by your never-ending love. As we are brought into intimate experience of you, help us embrace our identity in you – that the world will know we are yours. Amen**

*Joanne Carlson Brown*

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3131** *Hymn Chant*

**Hear my prayer, O God, and listen to my plea;**

 **faithful, righteous One, give ear and answer me.**

 **Judge me not, I pray; no merit dare I claim;**

 **knowing my own faults, I trust in your just Name.**

**… 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 AND MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

 (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 the Sanctuary near the end of the service, and parents may meet them.

**Solo** 10:45 Bright Star *Norman Dello Joio*

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Liz DiPietro 10:45 Joyce Magill

 A Lesson from the New Testament

 Acts 19:1-7 Paul the Apostle speaks of the Holy Spirit

**Hymnal 252**  **When Jesus came to Jordan** (seated)  *Complainer*

**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.**

**Celtic Alleluia** **Alleluia** (sing 4 times, standing) *O’Carroll and Walker*

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospel

 Mark 1:4-11 The baptism of the Lord

**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 *Philip Stopford*

 Refrain: Lully, lulla, lully, lulla; by, by, lully, lulla, thou little tiny Child,

 by, by, lully, lullay.

 O sisters too how may we do for to preserve this day?

 This poor youngling for whom we sing by, by, lully, lullay. Refrain

 Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day.

 His men of might in his own sight all young children to slay. Refrain

 That woe is me, poor Child for Thee, and ever morn and day.

 For Thy parting neither say nor sing, by, by, lully, lullay. Refrain

**Doxology Hymn 97** (standing) Tune: #688 *Ar hyd y nos*

**For the fruits of this creation, thanks be to God;**

 **for good gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;**

 **for the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,**

 **future needs in earth’s safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “Wonder Water” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 254 We three kings** (standing) *Kings of Orient*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers in the chancel** are given by Jim and Nancy Lutz in honor of the Handbell Ministry.

**The flowers on the altar** are given by John and Ruth Ann Esaias in honor of the staff and volunteers of Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Chancel Choir and soloist Kathleen Whittaker.

**Acolytes** Max Siegert and Xavier Sanchez

**Greeters 8:30** Rob and Jane Spicher **10:45** David Seitz

**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.

**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 can be found at http:// mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Flower Donations** Honor or remember a loved one or friend with a Sunday flower arrangement donation. Contact Lizzie Diller, 412-860-3614.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Acts 19:1-7**

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 2He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” 4Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” 5On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— 7altogether there were about twelve of them.

**Mark 1:4-11**

4John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

**Become a Greeter: Extend a Welcome Hand**

The Sunday morning greeter is often the first person a visitor or member contacts on entering the church. A greeter’s smile, handshake and cheerful words may set the tone for not only a church goer’s worship experience, but also an entire day. MLUMC is in need of Sunday morning greeters. Consider serving at one of the two worship services. You’ll become a vital part of the church’s ministry of hospitality and make new friends. If you can offer this service once or twice a year, fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or deliver it to the office.

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**Greeter Volunteer Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Worship service choice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_8:30 \_\_\_\_\_\_10:45**

**Phone # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

John Katshir, Mercy

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

Earl Killian, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell, Carolyn Dagg,

Charles Hohing, David Lewis,

Susan Lichtenfels, George Lindow,

Robert Murray, Betty Trout

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Adam Kmick

PFC Brendan Lamport
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski

Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

**In Sympathy**

Condolences are offered to the family of Carol S. Vockel who passed away on December 9, 2017 at the age of 88 in Delray Beach , Florida. Many may remember the Vockel family as long-time residents of Mt. Lebanon and members of MLUMC. Carol was known for giving over 35 years of her time and talents to Family Hospice and Palliative Care. On Saturday, April 14, 2018 friends and family are invited to gather at Providence Point in remembrance of Carol’s life of service to others.

**Thank You**

Special thanks to all who helped deliver the poinsettias to our shut-ins. Your act of kindness has spread the joy of the birth of Christ. It is much appreciated.

**Small Study Groups**

**Begin in January**

*By John Esaias*

We are excited to report that there has been a very positive response to the small study groups that will take place during 2018.

**The New Testament Study** group led by Clark Remington is filled to capacity. They will meet monthly in Clark's home.

**The Men's Group** meets in its new format beginning next Saturday, January 13 at 8:00 AM in the church. Jim Young will lead a discussion for one hour and then the men will learn how to operate our new fryers. In future meetings, they will undertake work projects after a time of study and discussion. Already nine men have registered, and more are welcome.

**Book Study** - Please join Rob and Jane Spicher, beginning Friday, January 26th at 6:30 pm, for a 5 session study. The focus of discussion will be “Anxious for Nothing” by Max Lucado, an insight from Phillippians 4:4-8. Dinner will be served. The study will meet at 1803 Cambridge Drive, Presto (Collier Township) PA, 15142, and the group will continue to meet monthly in the homes of group members. There is room for 10 to join. Please call Rob (412-720-4589) or e-mail Rob (robert.spicher@pnc.com) if you would like to join.

You also may sign up for the Spicher's Study Group and the Men's Group at the Welcome desk in the narthex. In addition, Cindy Biery will be leading a book study in the spring. More details will follow.

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 THRU SATURDAY, JANUARY 13**

**SUNDAY 1/7**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages/Coffee Café Various/Brookline Parlor

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 12 pm Blood Pressure Screening Brookline Parlor

 5 pm Youth Group New Year’s Celebration Asbury Center

**MONDAY 1/8**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7 pm Church Council Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 1/9**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Boy Scout Board of Reviews Room 105

 7 pm Cub Scout Planning Epworth Chapel

**WEDNESDAY 1/10**

 7 pm Tiger Den Cub Scouts Epworth Chapel

 7 pm Bear Den Cub Scouts Bridges

 7 pm Wolf Den Cub Scouts Room 105

**THURSDAY 1/11**

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 1/12**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

 1:30 pm Memoirs Group Wesley Hall

 7 pm Cub Scouts Arrow of Light Epworth Chapel

**SATURDAY 1/13**

 8 am Men’s Group Wesley Hall