

**September 16, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**17th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Christian Education Sunday**

Welcome back to Sunday School, and to a new year of Christian education in our church! In today’s Gospel reading Jesus asks his disciples, “*Who do people say that I am?”* There’s only one real answer to that question — Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, and he calls us to follow him to the cross.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymnal 145 Morning has broken** (seated) *Bunessan*

 **Worship & Song 3160 We will follow** *Somlandela*

**Greeting**

Leader: But I thank the Lord for his righteousness;

**People: I will sing praises to the name of the Lord Most High.** *Psalm 7:17 (CEB)*

**Announcements**

**Choral Introit** 10:45 Psalm 68: 32 *Richard C. Baker*

Sing unto God ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto our God.

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: You are the salt of the earth.

**People: May we season the world with faithfulness, O God.**

Pastor: You are the light of the world.

**People: May your love shine through us, O Christ our Savior.**

Pastor: You are a city built on a hill.

**People: May your vigor make us bold witnesses, O Spirit of the living God.**

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 64 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**  (standing) *Nicaea*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison, standing)

**O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out envy, pride, and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back evil’s power. God, make the door of this house the gateway to your eternal kingdom. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3131 Hear my prayer, O God** (stanza 3, seated)*Hymn Chant*

 **Answer soon, O God, my spirit faints in me;**

 **do not hide your face, or I will cease to be.**

 **When the morning dawns, make known your love anew;**

 **show me how to walk, for I will trust in you.**

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

**Recognition of Teachers and Other Christian Education Volunteers**

**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** Blessing of the Backpacks 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.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Worship & Song 3160 We will follow** (seated)*Somlandela*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Marcy Picardi

 10:45 Bob Mallery

A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

 Isaiah 50:4-9a God’s faithful servant

**Response**

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**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.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Hymnal 486 Alleluia** (standing) Chant Mode VI **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospel

 Mark 8:27-38 Jesus predicts his death

 **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 Total Praise *Richard Smallwood, arranged by Joel Raney*

 Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from you.

 Your peace you give in time of the storm.

 Refrain: You are the source of my strength; you are the strength of my life.

 I lift my hands in total praise to you.

 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty! Early in the morning my song shall rise to thee.

 Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity! Refrain

**Hymnal 94 Doxology** (standing)*Lasst uns erfreuen*

 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** “The Survey” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 430 O Master, let me walk with thee** (standing) *Maryton*

**Benediction**

**Hymnal 665 Go now in peace** (standing) *Go in peace*

**Go now in peace, go now in peace,**

 **may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

**Today’s Services**

**The chancel flowers** are given by  Steve and Amelia Dean in honor of Betty Lou Albright's upcoming birthday on September 20.

**The altar flowers** are given by Lindsay Harkins and Erik Brown in celebration of their marriage yesterday.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Chancel Choir with pianist Mary Paine.

**Greeters 8:30** Joe Catalano **10:45** Frances Graham

**Acolytes** Anna Rhoton and Jacob Lowe

**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.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a**

4The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. 5The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. 6I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. 7The Lord Godhelps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; 8he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. 9It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

**Mark 8:27-38**

27Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” 28And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” 29He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” 30And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $30 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium, and $60 for the chancel.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on 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.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Mark Cleveland, St. Clair

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

Grace Gullborg, Providence Point

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Carol Van Sickle, Marian Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

John Dean, Joseph Festor,

Leon Grant, Jr., David Lewis,

Susan Lichtenfels, George Lindow,

Sandy McPhee, Bill Merchant,

Diane Shaw, Jinny Sheppard,

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,

Sgt. 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 Grace Hoellein, who died on September 11, 2018, at the age of 100. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, September 15 at the church. Prayers and words of comfort can be sent to the family:

 Rev. Dr. Ron Hoellein

 10169 Meinert Road

 Wexford, PA 15090

**United Methodist Back-to-School Blessing**

On this first day of a new Sunday school year, many are feeling the excitement and anticipation of a new beginning, a new journey and chapter. The [empowering blessing](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/back-to-school-blessing) below is written by the Rev. Marilyn E. Thornton to lift up those involved in all walks of education. The blessing is also a video meditation on youtube, produced by United Methodist Communications. You can watch the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHeSLRgS1Ys

**Back-to-School Blessing**

***by the Rev. Marilyn E. Thornton***

Bless my paper and my pen.
Guide my spirit deep within.
Help me think and help me play,
This whole school year, day by day.

As I move from class to class,
Guide my footsteps; clear my path.
Keep my tongue to speak your words.
Let your will for me be heard.

In every subject high or low,
May God's excellence be shown!
Keep me strong to reach the prize,
To grow in grace, becoming wise.

Whether far from home or near,
May I hold God's precepts dear.
To do my best at every task;
For this blessing, I do ask.

Help my family be a part
As I lift my mind and heart.
As I study, work, and pray,
Be with them throughout the day.

Of whom much is given, much is required.
May learning be your greatest desire!



**Wanted – School Supplies and Lunchbox Snacks!**

Hands & Hearts will be collecting school supplies and individually wrapped lunch snacks for our church food pantry

We will accept any and all types of supplies – crayons, pens, pencils, scissors, rulers, paper, notebook, etc. and lunchbox items.  Donation boxes can be found across from the church office and on the 1st floor of the education building. All donations are greatly appreciated!

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 16 THRU SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

**SUNDAY 9/16**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

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

 9:30 am Confirmation Class Parents’ Meeting Welcome Center

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 6:30 pm BSA Eagle Board Review Various

**MONDAY 9/17**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7 pm Zwickau Meeting Welcome Center

 7:30 pm SPRC Meeting Library

 7:30 pm Community Events and Outreach Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 9/18**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7:30 pm Worship Team Epworth

**WEDNESDAY 9/19**

 \*6 pm Homebuilders Potluck Wesley Hall

 7 pm Trustees Welcome Center

 7 pm Cub Scout Asbury Center

**THURSDAY 9/20**

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**SATURDAY 9/22**

 2:30 pm Striebig/Dlubak Wedding Sanctuary

***\*****Homebuilders will continue their potluck dinners through September on Wednesdays at 6 pm. From October through May, the dinners will be held the 1st Wednesday of each month.*