

**January 13, 2019 8:30 & 10:45**

**Baptism of the Lord**

Are there difficulties in your life? Take them to the Lord in prayer! Is there anxiety in your heart? Then cast all your cares upon God, who cares so much for you! Join us in our church-wide emphasis on prayer this month, as we follow the example of Jesus in his baptism by hearing the voice of God.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymnal 256 We would see Jesus** (seated) *Cushman*

**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**

**Choral Introit**  10:45 This is my beloved Son *Knut Nystedt*

He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them,

and a voice from the cloud said: ‘This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.’

**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 252 When Jesus came to Jordan** (standing)*Complainer*

**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 3159 Let our earth be peaceful** (stanza 1, standing)*Raymond*

 **Let our earth be peaceful, let our hearts be hopeful,**

 **let our hands be gentle for the love of God.**

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

**The Sign of Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Gathering Song**

 **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.

**Handbell Anthem** 10:45 I wonder as I wander *J.J. Niles, arranged by Cathy Moklebust*

Chapel Bells

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Scott Miller 10:45 Chris James

**A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures**

 Isaiah 43:1-7 God speaks against fear

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** **Festival Alleluia** (standing) *James Chepponis*

 **Alleluia** (repeat 6 times)

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospels

 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 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 My Son, the Beloved *David Blackwell*

 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

 And as he came out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart

 and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

 And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.

 My Son, the Beloved.’ *Mark 1: 9-11*

**Hymnal 219 What child is this** (stanza 3, standing) *Greensleeves*

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;**

**the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;**

**haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon**  “Unafraid: An Age of High Anxiety” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Call to Prayer –** *You are invited to approach the communion rail for prayer during the singing of our last hymn. Following the service, extended time for prayer will also be offered in the Sanctuary (8:30 service) or Sanner Chapel (10:45 service).*

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 534 Be still, my soul** (standing) *Finlandia*

**Benediction**

**Hymnal 252 When Jesus came to Jordan** (last half of stanza 2, standing) *Complainer* **So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man,**

 **the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by the Lonsinger family in loving memory of Dick Lonsinger, who died January 21, 2015.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given by Derick Florian in celebration of the upcoming birthday of his beautiful wife Lizzie, the hardworking and compassionate mother of their son Jude.

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chapel Bells, directed by Nancy R. Lutz, and the Chancel Choir, accompanied by Cori DeLuca, a member of the church and a piano teacher in the area.

**Acolytes** Emily Shoff and Jacob Lowe

**Greeters 8:30** Bob & Beverly Fester **10:45** Dick & Andrea Sherwin

**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 43:1-7**

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. 2When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. 3For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. 4Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. 5Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; 6I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— 7everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

21Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

**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.

**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. Beginning Feb. 1, the cost is $40 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium arrangements, and $80 for the chancel flowers.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Carol Van Sickle, Marian Manor

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore, Jean Boyer,

Mary Caldwell, John Dean,

Joseph Festor, Leon Grant, Jr.,

Dave Lewis, Susan Lichtenfels,

George Lindow, Sara Mercer,

Diane Shaw, Jinny Sheppard

Ruth Seip

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,

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

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

**Welcome to Our New Youth Director** Charles Sledge is Mt. Lebanon UM Church’s new youth director. He is an energetic and vibrant person who has always had a passion for serving God.  His ministries include music, theatre, youth director and church leadership in the Baptist and Apostolic faiths.  Charles also served as the President of the Greater Pennsylvania State Council Youth Ministry that oversaw 83 churches and youth departments.  Obviously, there is much more to Charles than a few sentences.  Please come and meet him in person.  His enthusiasm is contagious! Our youth group often meets on Sundays at 5 pm. Check the church calendar for details.



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

**Thanks** to those who contributed gift cards for the  teenagers in the care of Ward Home. All of the Christmas requests were filled  by the generosity of the people of MLUMC. You are truly Angels! - Mary Garber

**Kerygma Adult Sunday School 9:30-10:30 am The Library**

Jan. 13 Clark Remington: **Book Review on “Invitation to Love”**

Jan. 20 Clark Remington: **Book Review on “Invitation to Love”**

Jan. 27 **Retreat**

Feb. 10 Hazel Cope: **Peace Makers in WWI**

Feb. 17 Clark Remington: **Practices of Christian Contemplation: Centering Prayer, Meditation, Lectio Divina**

Feb. 24Pastor Tom Strandburg: **The Life and Ministry of the Apostle Paul**

Mar. 3Pastor Tom Strandburg: **The Life and Ministry of the Apostle Paul**

***All Are Welcome***

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 THRU SATURDAY, JANUARY 19**

**SUNDAY 1/13**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages/Coffee Café Various/Brookline Parlor 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 12 pm German Lunch Asbury Center

 5 pm Youth Group Youth Room

**MONDAY 1/14**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7 pm Finance Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 1/15**

 7 pm Boy Scout Meeting WesleyHall

**WEDNESDAY 1/16**

7 pm Trustees Meeting Welcome Center

 7 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting Wesley

**THURSDAY 1/17**

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**SATURDAY 1/19**

 10 am Food Pantry Distribution Food Pantry

 4 pm Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner Asbury Center