

**3rd Sunday After Pentecost**

As Jesus began calling his first disciples, he heard a lot of excuses. There were many reasons for not affirming the call to discipleship. His response to these excuses tells us that his disciples need to be focused on what lies ahead, not what is behind. What's more, it says a lot about priorities and unconditional commitment.

**June 30, 2019 8:30 & 10:45**

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

\*Asterisk indicates to stand as able

8:30 **Gathering Music Hymnal 347 Spirit Song** *Spirit Song*

**Greeting**

Leader: No one has ever seen God;

**People: if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.**

*1 John 4:12*

**Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: You are the salt of the earth.

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

Leader: You are the light of the world.

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

Leader: You are a city built on a hill.

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

*Worship*

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

\***Hymnal 73 O worship the King**  *Lyons*

**\*Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**Days pass and the years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles. Lord, fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing; let there be moments when your presence, like lightning, illumines the darkness in which we walk. Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush burns unconsumed. And we, clay touched by God, will reach out for holiness, and exclaim in wonder: How filled with awe is this place, and we did not know it: “Blessed is the Eternal One, the holy God!” Amen.**

*Worship & Song*

**\*Silent Prayer**

**\*Hymnal 393 Spirit of the living God**   *Living God*

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

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**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**

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 near the end of the service.

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

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Marci Picardi 10:45 Nate Jara

**A Lesson from the New Testament**

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Elijah goes to heaven

**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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

\***Celtic Alleluia Alleluia.** (sing 4 times) *Fintan O’Carroll*

\*Scripture Reading

**A Lesson from the Gospel**

Luke 9:51-62 Jesus sends messengers to prepare the way

**\*Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

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

10:45 **Offertory Anthem** Alleluia: all the ages *Monica Bonasso*

Alleluia! *Cantate Jesu Christe!* (Sing to Jesus Christ!)

Alleluia! sing to Jesus! His the scepter, his the throne.

Alleluia! his the triumph. His the victory alone.

Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;

Jesus out of ev’ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his Name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.

Alleluia! Glory be to God on high! Alleluia! to the Savior who has won the victory.

Alleluia to the Spirit, font of love and sanctity. Alleluia!

\***Hymnal** **94 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow** (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!**

adapt. © 1989 The U. Methodist Publishing House

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “No Ifs, Ands, or Buts” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

\***Hymnal 396 O Jesus, I have promised** (stanzas 1-3) *Angel’s Story*

\***Benediction**

\***Hymnal 396 O Jesus, I have promised** (stanza 4) *Angel’s Story*

**Today’s Services**

**The flower arrangement provided for worship** is given by Edward and Bette Lou Reichard in honor of their great-grandchildren, Theo, Louisa, Lucy, and Ellie.

**Greeters 8:30** Pete and Beth Santore **10:45** Chuck and Brenda Vogel

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chancel Choir, conducted by Julia Scott, a member of the Chancel Choir and a professional harpist.

**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**  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.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14**

2Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. 6Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. 7Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. 8Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

9When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” 10He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” 11As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. 12Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

13He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

**Luke 9:51-62**

51When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; 53but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” 55But he turned and rebuked them. 56Then they went on to another village.

57As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 58And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” 59To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” 60But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”61Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” 62Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Bishop George Bashore,St. Clair

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Heights

Isabella (Langston) Field,

St. Alphonsus Medical Center, Boise

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Doris Trimble, Providence Point

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, Carol Van Sickle,

Jinny Sheppard, Ruth Seip, Rob Spicher, Arlene Stewart

**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

**Condolences**

Sympathy is offered to the family of church member Rosalie A. Peters, who passed away at the age of 93 on Tuesday, June 11, 2019. Condolences may be sent to her daughter:

Mrs. Barbara Sulllivan

410 Spencer Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15227

**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 $33 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium arrangements, and $66 for the chancel flowers.

**Faith for Today 9:30-10:30 am Sundays Asbury Center**

**Today: Spencer Radnich *“*** ***Be Smart,” A gun safety program to protect children***

Be Smart” is a simple way developed by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America for adults to protect children, our most important asset, from being harmed by guns. Spencer Radnich and his wife, Gayle, joined MLUMC last year following his retirement from a senior marketing position and the couple’s retirement from missionary work in Africa.

**July 7 Karen Williams *Working with Refugees*** Karen Williams is a local published author and life-long volunteer in places such as Malawi and Haiti. Ms. Williams lived and worked with people who would later become the inspiration for her books. This family friendly presentation will feature her experiences working with refugees in Pittsburgh and abroad.

**Help for Pittsburgh Area Refugees**

In recognition of our July 7 Faith for Today topic of refugees in the Pittsburgh area, please consider bringing a donation to church that can be of great help to this population. Items brought to the church will be collected and delivered to SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Movement) which partners with a local organization to help refugee families ([https:isacpittsburgh.org/](https://isacpittsburgh.org/) ).

SHIM provides the following list of suggested donations:

* Dried beans (kidney beans, chickpeas, black beans, etc.)
* Lentils
* Rice
* Flour
* Cooking oil
* Sugar
* Spices & seasonings (salt, pepper, garlic, ginger, chili powder, turmeric, etc.)
* Diapers

This list can also be found on the SHIM website: : <https://shimcares.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/SHIM-refugee-items-10.8.18.pdf>.

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**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, JUNE 30 THRU SATURDAY, JULY 6**

**SUNDAY 6/30**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

9:30 am Faith for Today Asbury Center

10:45 am Worship Asbury Center

Kids Praise Welcome Center

7 pm Troop 23 Leadership Meeting Wesley

**TUESDAY 7/2**

11 am Staff Meeting Welcome Center

7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley

**WEDNESDAY 7/3**

5 pm Homebuilders Pot Luck Wesley

**THURSDAY 7/4 – OFFICE CLOSED/HOLIDAY**

**FRIDAY 7/5 – OFFICE CLOSED/HOLIDAY**