



## Mt. Lebanon EPC Pastoral Letter

Making and Growing Followers of Jesus, by:

*Meeting Jesus*

*Loving Our Neighbors*

*Encouraging One Another*

*Preparing Servants*

*Celebrating Christ*

***“<sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”... “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”***

*1 John 5: 11 – 12, John 3: 16 – 17*

September 17, 2023

Dear Church Family and Friends,

This week during worship we will explore the first letter in our Mission Acronym, which is the ‘**M**’ of ‘**MLEPC**.’ The ‘**M**’ points us to the basis of our church’s mission, which is to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to ‘**Meet Jesus**.’

If you’ve been following world news these past weeks, perhaps you too realize more than ever, that our world is not as permanent as we’d like to believe. The wildfires, flooding and earthquakes are taking such a toll on human life with such suffering that we all must know that we need something to anchor our lives on that will never fail us. Seeing such widespread devastation has really driven home the reality that everyone needs to belong to God because, just as He has warned us, our earth and our life on it, is not forever.

Through His love for us, God has given us a place to be anchored, in safety, forever. God has invited us to share life with Him in His Kingdom, which is indestructible, and ‘**eternal in the Heavens.**’ (1 Corinthians 5:1)

God’s invitation is for everyone in the entire world, but the Bible makes it clear to us that our membership in God’s Kingdom is not automatic. It is a choice that God gives each of us to make.

The Bible also tells us that in order to qualify for Heaven, our soul must be connected to God’s Spirit. We learn in Genesis that God created us ‘**in His image**’ to be connected to him, forever, both physically and spiritually. But when our parents, Adam and Eve, chose to disobey God, sin entered into them, and their soul was severed from God.

Because Sin and God’s holiness cannot be joined, the entire human race after Adam and Eve, including you and me, are born spiritually disconnected from God. In order to be made ‘**spiritually alive**’ again, we must be joined to God’s Spirit. And that is our human dilemma. How do we join our soul to God?

We learn in the Bible that God has made a way for each of us to become ‘**spiritually alive,**’ and that ‘**Way**’ is God’s Son, Jesus. (John 14:6) Jesus purifies us from our sin and even transfers his own holiness to everyone who asks for it.

Receiving Jesus’ gift, our soul is immediately connected to the true Source of Life. In addition, Jesus then lavishes so many blessings on us. We become Citizens of God’s Kingdom and are adopted as a Child of God and begin to live in His Presence while here on Earth and into forever.

Please join us this Sunday to explore the ‘**Abundant Life**’ that Jesus offers to those who ‘**Meet**’ him and place their faith and trust in him.

Blessed by Jesus with you,

Pastor Cinda