**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, January 7, 2018 – Baptism of Our Lord Sunday**

**Sermon Title: Worship 101: Wade in the Water… or Not**

**Scripture: Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)** 4And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only)**

Leader: Give to the Lord the glory due his name!

**People: Let the Lord give strength to his people!**

Leader: The Lord’s voice is over the waters; the glorious God thunders; the Lord is over the mighty waters.

**People: Let the Lord give strength to his people!**

Leader: The Lord’s voice is strong and majestic. It shatters the cedars of Lebanon, unleashes fiery flames, and shakes the wilderness. The Lord sits enthroned over the floodwaters – King forever!

**People: Let the Lord give strength to his people!**

**Let the Lord bless his people with peace!**

**Basic Theme:Baptism is one of the two sacraments recognized by the United Methodist Church. Have you ever wondered why we baptize? When did this practice begin? How much water is necessary and how should an individual be baptized? Baptism is offered to anyone at any age provided they meet the simple qualifications and are willing to take the vows (or a parent take them for a child). Baptism is a requirement for church membership.**

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus who preached a message of repentance and baptized many who came seeking forgiveness for their sins. But John was not the first to baptize… ritualistic cleansing and consecration had been a part of the Jewish tradition for centuries. Jesus also came to John and commanded that he baptize our Lord. During his ministry, Jesus disciples baptized followers in His name. Prior to his Ascension, Jesus gave his disciples a mission: Go, Teach and Baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is still our mission and purpose today!**

**So What? Have you been baptized? Should you and/or your children be baptized? What barriers prevent you from taking this step and publicly declaring your faith in Jesus Christ?**