

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – August 15, 2021

PRELUDE – “Morning Prayer” – Gilbert Martin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

God our provider,
help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ☩ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

HYMN #556 MORNING HAS BROKEN

GREETING

From God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

PROVERBS 9:1-6

PSALM 34:9-14 *Spoken responsively*

⁹Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

¹⁰**The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

¹¹Come, children, and listen to me;
I will teach you reverence for the LORD.

¹²**Who among you takes pleasure in life
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**

¹³Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from lying words.

¹⁴**Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.**

SECOND LESSON:

EPHESIANS 5:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

JOHN 6:51-58

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #759

MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and
born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into
hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into**

heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Response: hear our prayer.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The pastor offers the prayer.

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,

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER

Let us pray...Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this
meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In
your name we pray. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys
with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #537 ON OUR WAY REJOICING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “POSTLUDE ON ‘HYFRYDOL’” – DAVID LASKY

✠ ✠ ✠

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WELCOME TO ALL IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

We especially welcome those who are visiting. We invite you to sign our guest register in the narthex. Blank envelopes in the pews are for visitors.
“God’s purpose for St. Paul’s Lutheran Blue” Church is to spread the Good News of Christ’s love for all people in the Southern Lehigh community and beyond.” –Blue Church Mission Statement, adopted 2012

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR...THE 12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John’s gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John’s gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord’s supper, but here we can’t help hearing Jesus’ words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

PROVERBS 9:1-6: *Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom’s food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom’s banquet is the way to life.*

EPHESIANS 5:15-20: *True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.*

JOHN 6:51-58: *In John’s gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identified himself as the true “bread of life.” Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church’s celebration of holy communion.*

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 12: Lord, let me make the most of my time. (See *Ephesians 5:16*)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Spirit of God, you inspire us to sing with thanksgiving to God. Give us grateful hearts to celebrate the mystery of life at Christ’s table. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR... Cyndie Cline, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Bob Gibiser, Ann Greensweig, Andrea Incacaterra, Frank Kelly, Robin King, Beverly Lerch, Peter Link, Carl Ritter, Candice Robinson, Jerry Smith, Dick Storat, Sue Storat, Kathy, Connie, Stephen.

Other concerns:

Note: This is a short-term list, for those who are in “acute care” situations—hospitalized or in recovery, dying, facing the recent death of a loved one, or presently facing a severe life crisis. The names of those for whom we pray will be kept on the list for one month. If you wish to have them placed back on the list please contact the church office.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

CELEBRANT The Rev. James Hammond
ORGANIST Dr. Jennifer Dodd
ASSISTING MINISTER Ron Fried
LECTOR Gwen Gibiser
GREETERS Roger & Edie Knappenberger
CHURCH COUNCIL REP Deb Stover

BLUE CHURCH GARDEN OF GIVING is really coming alive with fresh produce (tomatoes, beans, zucchini, eggplant, etc. Check it out and take what you can use. Simply give a donation marked “Garden of Giving” and it will be forwarded to Betty Lou’s Food Pantry.

LOOKING AHEAD

AUGUST 22 – 9:30 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Hall is air-conditioned for the summer Worship services.

SEPT. 12 – 10:30 AM Worship and Picnic at Upper Saucon Township Park. NOTE CHANGE...Due to the current changing situation with the virus, we are now asking you to bring your own picnic lunch for after worship.

BETTY LOU’S PANTRY UPDATE...Most needed donations at the pantry right now:

Tuna Helper Chunky Soups Baked Beans Kidney Beans
Other things always needed:

Toilet paper, jelly (other than grape), non-sugared cereal, hygiene products (other than soap)

BLUE CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>JULY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
RECEIPTS	\$ 6,619.00	\$80,799.74
EXPENSES	\$14,391.49	\$87,894.09
<u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>	\$ (7,772.49)	\$ (7,094.35)
ENDOWMENT FUND WITHDRAWN TO COVER EXPENSES	\$0	\$0
EMDOWMENT FUND INTEREST/REFUND	\$0	\$0

Stewardship Snippet

Aug. 15, 2021 (12th Sunday after Pentecost)
Ephesians 5:15,16 – Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

God gives all of us the same abundance of time – 24 hours in every day, and it’s so easy to waste! Steward disciples pray for wisdom to live each day to its fullest, and to turn away from the world’s evils.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK...

AUGUST 15 – MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD

The church honors Mary with the Greek title theotokos, meaning God-bearer. Origen first used this title in the early church, and the councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon upheld it. Luther upheld this same title in his writings. The honor paid to Mary as theotokos and mother of our Lord goes back to biblical times, when Mary herself sang, “From now on all generations will call me blessed” (Luke 1:48). Mary’s life revealed the presence of God incarnate, and it revealed God’s presence among the humble and poor. Mary’s song, the Magnificat, speaks of reversals in the reign of God: the mighty are cast down, the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are fed, and the rich are sent away empty-handed.

LESSONS

Proverbs 9:1-6 – 1st Lesson

9 Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
2 She has slaughtered her animals, she has
mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
3 She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
4 'You that are simple, turn in here!'
To those without sense she says,
5 'Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
6 Lay aside immaturity,* and live,
and walk in the way of insight.'

Ephesians 5:15-20 – 2nd Lesson

15 Be careful then how you live, not as unwise
people but as wise, **16**making the most of the
time, because the days are evil. **17**So do not be
foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord
is. **18**Do not get drunk with wine, for that is
debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, **19**as you
sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
among yourselves, singing and making melody
to the Lord in your hearts, **20**giving thanks to God
the Father at all times and for everything in the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 6:51-58 - Gospel

51I am the living bread that came down from
heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live
forever; and the bread that I will give for the life
of the world is my flesh.'

52 The Jews then disputed among themselves,
saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to
eat?' **53**So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell
you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink his blood, you have no life in
you. **54**Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood
have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the
last day; **55**for my flesh is true food and my blood
is true drink. **56**Those who eat my flesh and drink
my blood abide in me, and I in them. **57**Just as the
living Father sent me, and I live because of the
Father, so whoever eats me will live because of
me. **58**This is the bread that came down from
heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate,
and they died. But the one who eats this bread
will live forever.'

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✕ 12th Sunday after Pentecost ✕
August 15, 2021

A: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation, responding,

“Hear our prayer.”

A brief silence

A: God of wisdom, enlighten your church. Guide theologians, biblical scholars, authors, and seminary professors as they seek greater knowledge and invite others into deeper understanding. Teach us to ask faithful questions and open our minds to new ideas. God, in your mercy,

“Hear our prayer.”

A: God of creation, mend the earth. Cool warming oceans and preserve melting ice caps. Increase our awareness of changing climate patterns and reveal new approaches to the ecological challenges we face. Shield those in the path of hurricanes or tropical storms. God, in your mercy,

“Hear our prayer.”

A: God of all nations, direct our leaders. Grant them courage to lay aside political grudges and renew their determination to address difficult conflicts. Guide them in the work of reconciliation. God, in your mercy,

“Hear our prayer.”

A: God of compassion, tend to the wounded. Rescue those tormented by mental illness or mired in addiction. Ease the anxiety of those struggling with dementia. Come quickly to help all who are grieving and all those who suffer. Today we pray especially for: Cyndie, Sandra, Bill, Bob, Ann, Andrea, Frank, Robin, Beverly, Peter, Carl, Candice, Jerry, Dick, Sue, Kathy, Connie,

Stephen, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. God, in your mercy,

“Hear our prayer.”

A: God of beauty, inspire artists. Bless those whose visual and musical gifts enliven Blue Church. Bless the creative work of poets, hymnwriters, composers, painters, sculptors, and others that enrich our worship and daily life. God, in your mercy,

“Hear our prayer.”

A: God of resurrection, bring us to new life. Give us the living bread from heaven through which we abide in your love, and on the last day raise us with all the saints to eternal life. God, in your mercy,

“Hear our prayer.”

Pastor: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.