

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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Pastor: Rev. James Hammond 610-437-1960; jjtrev1@verizon.net

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The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠ August 19, 2018

PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love. **Amen.**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection

Eternal God our creator,

in you we live and move and have our being Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ✠ forgives you all your sins. **Amen.**

HYMN #556 "MORNING HAS BROKEN"

GREETING

The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit 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

VERSE



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.

SERMON

HYMN #758 – "YOU ARE THE WAY"

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Offering is gathered for the poor and those with needs in our community and world.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God,
you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san-na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC 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,
forever and ever. Amen**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

HOLY COMMUNION HYMN: #515 "BREAK NOW THE BREAD OF LIFE"

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

Let us pray...Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are LORD forevermore. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #867 – "IN THEE IS GLADNESS"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

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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 13th 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.

PLEASE NOTE: - For those people wishing to take Holy Communion without wine, there are four cups in the center of the Communion tray with grape juice.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR.....Sick/Recovering: Claire Biser, Doris Branson, Alton DeBold, Jason Homlish, Wendy Porter, Shannon Silliman, Irmi, the family and friends of Doris Heiserman

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 persons 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
PIANIST	Nathan Scott
GREETERS	Ron & Carol Stoudt
ASSISTING MINISTER	Ron Fried
LECTOR	
USHERS	Roger & Gloria Knappenberger
ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY	Pete & Cathy Link
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Pete Link

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: 9:30 AM Worship.
10:30 AM Sunday School Teaching Meeting immediately following Worship.

WED.: 9 AM Quilting.

NEXT SUN.: 9:30 AM Worship

COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

SEPT. 9, 9:00 AM CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES. New members are especially welcomed.

SEPT. 10 - 7:00 PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING.

SEPT. 15 - COOPERSBURG COMMUNITY DAY.

SEPT. 23 - RALLY DAY AT BLUE CHURCH.

SEPT. 30 – NEW MEMBER CLASSES (See Pastor Jim)

OCTOBER – BLUE CHURCH YARD SALE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH AT LOWER MILFORD TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY, LIMEPORT.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS...by Paula & Mike Clark in honor of their Wedding Anniversary and Family Birthdays.

BULLETINS...by Paula and Mike Clark in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Emmett & Marie Miller

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE SIGN-UP SHEETS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR WAYS TO HELP WITH COMMUNITY DAY ON SEPTEMBER 15TH. There are a lot of opportunities for you to help.

THE PRODUCE ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX IS FROM THE BLUE CHURCH "GIVING GARDEN". Please feel free to take what you can use and leave a donation in the "Cabbage". All monies will be donated to Betty Lou's Food Pantry to help feed the hungry.

BETTY LOU'S FOOD PANTRY is especially in need of the following items: Catsup, mustard, mayonnaise and coffee.

BLUE CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>JULY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
RECEIPTS	\$ 7,189.00	\$48,304.63
EXPENSES	\$12,796.24	\$100,330.53
(DEFICIT)	(\$ 5,607.24)	(\$52,025.90)

ENDOWMENT FUND WITHDRAWN TO COVER EXPENSES

\$4,500.00 \$31,500.00

ENDOWMENT FUND INTEREST/REFUND \$ 6,114.49

THE DATE HAS BEEN SET!! BLUE CHURCH WILL HAVE A YARD SALE ON OCTOBER 13TH. Mark your calendar. *It's not too early to start saving all your unwanted "treasures" for this event.*

THERE ARE STILL OPEN DATES TO SPONSOR THE SANCTUARY CANDLE, BULLETINS, ETC. Please check the appropriate chart on the Bulletin Boards in the Narthex.

Do you see anything around Blue Church that needs repairs? If so, jot it down on the form on the clip board on the table in the Narthex and the Property Committee will look into fixing it.

SIGN UP SHEETS ARE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX to sign up for watering and weeding the "Garden for Giving". Kindly pick the week that you would be willing to help.
