

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

5900 Applebutter Hill Rd. Coopersburg, Pa 18036

610-965-9500 e-mail: bluechch@ptd.net Website: stpaulscoopersburg.com

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

Blue Church Cemetery – 484-201-5048; e-mail: bluechurchcemetery@gmail.com

First Sunday of Christmas ✕ December 30, 2018

PRELUDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✕ one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all. **Amen**

Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

God, wonderful counselor,
we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.

God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of ✕ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always. **Amen.**

HYMN #275 "ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY"

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...Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

1 SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26

PSALM 148

Spoken responsively

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

**2Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

**3Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.**

**4Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

**5Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,**

**6who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

**7Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;**

**8fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

**9mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;**

**10wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

**11sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;**

**12young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

**13Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and
heaven.**

**14The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all faithful servants,**

**the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.
Hallelujah!**

SECOND LESSON:

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

VERSE



P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 2:41-52

P: The Gospel of the LORD.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #294 "IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER"

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and
unseen.**

**We believe in one LORD, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became
incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with
the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is
seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the LORD, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and
glorified.**

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS *Response: "Your mercy is great."*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: 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

Holy God,

**your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows
from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love
come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry
and all in need. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The LORD be with you.

And also 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 God thanks and praise.

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



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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The pastor offers the prayer. The congregation joins in praying the LORD's 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 to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

LAMB OF GOD

☞ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION #277 "AWAY IN A MANGER"

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

Let us pray...God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, ✠ bless you and keep you in hope and peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #288 "GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS REJOICE!"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
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

First Sunday of Christmas: *On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God, who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.*

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

I SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26: Having dedicated her son Samuel to God’s service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the Lord’s house to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17: Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God’s gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

LUKE 2:41-52: Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: Clothe us with the compassion of Christ. *(Colossians 3:12)*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: God our Father, you bless the world in Christ, the newborn Son. Plant the seed of your word in our hearts that we may grow in grace and wisdom. 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: Eileen Haddad, Joel Hammond, Ann G., Christine Robins, Hattie Smith, Maureen Swanson, Irmi, Dan, Deb

Other concerns: The family and friends of Josh Reyes
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
GREETER	Diane Wirth
ASSISTING MINISTER	Maggie Fried
LECTOR	
USHERS	Anne Nichols, Diane Wirth
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Deb Stover

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: NO 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal.
NO 9:30 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship.

TUES.: **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

WED.: 9 AM Quilting.

NEXT SUN.: 9 AM Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM **WORSHIP – Epiphany of our Lord.**

COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

JAN. 14 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

JAN. 20 – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.

JAN. (DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED) “ROCK THE CROCK” FUN EVENT AT BLUE CHURCH WITH ENTERTAINMENT. STAY TUNED, MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

BULLETINS...by Roger and Edie Knappenberger.

SANCTUARY LAMP...by Bill and Kathy Exner.

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Roger and Edie Knappenberger

THE COAT DRIVE IS UNDER WAY. Don’t throw out your old coats. Blue Church is collecting gently used coats to help those who can use them for the upcoming winter season. The collection of coats will continue through the Christmas season. You can bring in coats for drop off in the bin in the narthex.

The Sheets to sponsor Altar Flowers, Bulletins, the Sanctuary Candle, and the monthly Communion Wine for 2019 are on the bulletin boards in the Narthex. Please make sure to sign the appropriate chart.

PLEASE NOTE – The last day to receive credit for your 2018 contribution is December 30. Any offerings received after that date will be credited to 2019. Thank you for your cooperation.

Pastor Jim and Janet wish to thank the entire congregation for their wonderful gift and cards they received during this Christmas Season.