

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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

Second Sunday of Advent ✕ December 9, 2018

PRELUDE – "STILL, STILL, STILL" – JAMES MANSFIELD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity ✕ one God, the LORD of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. **Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence for reflection

To you, O God,

We lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of ✕ Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near. **Amen.**

HYMN #430 "REJOICE, FOR CHRIST IS KING!"

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING & LIGHTING 2ND CANDLE

P: God our shepherd, gather us as lambs in your arms.

C: Forgive our sins so that we may rejoice in your coming. Amen.

Second candle is lit.

HYMN #244 "REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS" (STANZA 2)

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...Stir up our hearts, LORD God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

MALACHI 3:1-4

PSALMODY: LUKE 1:68-79

(Sung responsively)

(Tone 3)



Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,
you have come to your people and | set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,
born of the house of your | servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from
our enemies,

⁷¹from the hands of | all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy | to our forebears,
and to remember your | holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,

free to worship you | without fear,

⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge | of salvation
by the forgiveness | of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion | of our God

the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shad- | ow of
death,**

and to guide our feet into the | way of peace.

SECOND LESSON:

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd Chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 3:1-6

P: The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #255 "THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS"

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

The peace of the LORD be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING — "INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY" — HAL WRIGHT

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

Let us pray...God of abundance,
**we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as
we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son,
our Savior and 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, Lord God of pow'r 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.

EUCHARISTIC 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

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the LORD is good.

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

HYMN #269 - "ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY"

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

A: Let us pray...Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our LORD Jesus. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #239 "HARK, THE GLAD SOUND!"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH” – HUGH LIVINGSTON, JR.



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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.

“Gods 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.”

—Mission Statement adopted, February 2012

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT: ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE

READINGS...*Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the Baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”*

MALACHI 3:1-4: *The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “My messenger”) shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.*

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11: *The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

LUKE 3:1-6: *John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: The dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Luke 1:78)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: God who comes to us from the future, make your church a holy and merciful temple, a people eager to prepare your way. 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., Hattie Smith, Maureen Swanson, Irmi, Dan, Deb

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	Anne Nichols
ASSISTING MINISTER	Amy Ortwein
LECTOR	Amy Ortwein
CANTOR	Ron Fried
USHERS	Marcy and John Sumoski
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Amy Ortwein

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: **9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal.**
 9:30 AM Christian Education.
 10:30 AM Worship.
 Decorate the Church after Worship.

MON.: **7 PM Church Council Meeting.**

WED.: **9 AM Quilting.**

SAT.: **4 PM St. Lucia Fest Program at Blue Church.**
 Light Refreshments following the Program.
 (Snow Date – Dec. 16)

NEXT SUN.: **9 AM Choir Rehearsal.**
 9:30 AM Christian Education.
 10:30 AM WORSHIP – 3rd Sunday in Advent.

C O M I N G E V E N T S – mark your calendar!

DEC. 24 - 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Worship.

DEC. 24 – 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

BULLETINS...by Roger and Edie Knappenberger in memory of Loved Ones.

SANCTUARY LAMP...by Bill and Kathy Exner.

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

A FEW MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR BETTY LOU'S PANTRY DISTRIBUTION TWO SATURDAYS IN DECEMBER. They are December 8th and December 22nd from 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM. A sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

THE COAT DRIVE IS ONCE AGAIN 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.

BLUE CHURCH BAKERS – Donations of cookies are desired for the St. Lucia Fest Program at Blue Church on Saturday, December 15th.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – The sign-up charts are on the bulletin boards in the Narthex to sponsor poinsettias to adorn the altar area at Christmas. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran (Blue) Church.

ST. PAUL'S BLUE CHURCH invites you to the Lucia Fest, a Swedish pageant of music and candlelight on Saturday, December 15th at 4:00 PM. Please join Lucia and her Attendants, Star Children, and Tomtegubbar (elves) in celebrating this Scandinavian holiday tradition. After the pageant, light refreshments will be served.

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.

HELP BLUE CHURCH BY SHOPPING AT AmazonSmile. Each time you do Amazon will donate 0.5% of the amount of the purchase. Each quarter Blue Church will then receive a check. Before shopping simply select **ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH COOPERSBURG PA** as your charitable choice

to receive your donation. Pick up an information sheet on the table in the Narthex.

Stewardship Snippet

Dec. 9, 2018 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Philippians 1:9-11 – And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Love is the theme for the Second Sunday in Advent. When we cultivate love in our lives as steward/disciples, it does overflow and guide our lives on the paths of strength and joy.

Please consider the Simply Giving Program in your stewardship giving to the Church. The program offers a secure electronic payment solution that allows you to make regular offerings. Sign up is easy. Simply fill out a form located in the narthex and return it to the church office. Any questions, contact Kathy Exner.

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.

WE REMEMBER THIS WEEK...

DECEMBER 13 – LUCY, MARTYR, DIED 304

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Apparently she had decided to devote her life to God and her possessions to the poor. Beyond that, however, little is known for certain about Lucy. However, her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (the name means “light”) originally fell on the shortest day of the year. A tradition arose of a girl in the household, wearing a crown of candles, bringing saffron rolls to her family early in the morning on the day of Lucia.
