

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

Epiphany of Our Lord ✦ January 6, 2019

**PRELUDE — “HOW BRIGHTLY SHINES THE MORNING STAR” —
JOHANN CHRISTIAN BACH**

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 #300 *“THE FIRST NOEL”*

GREETING

God who sent the Light into our world, who shone in the Bethlehem manger, and who spreads the Spirit's rays, be with you all.
And also with you.

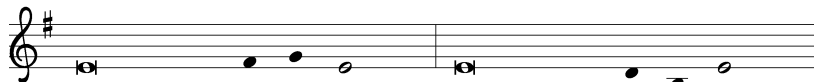
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 60:1-6

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

Tone 8



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 Matthew, the 2nd Chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

P: The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #302 "AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD"

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 — "IT WAS A STARRY NIGHT" — VOCAL SOLO BY
JENNIFER DODD

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

A: LORD God,

C: as you accepted the gifts of the Magi, receive and bless these
gifts which we offer in praise of the bright Morning Star,
Jesus 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 their 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.

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 - "WE THREE KINGS (INSERT)

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

A: Let us pray...Almighty God, grant that all who have beheld the glory of your Son in this Holy Sacrament of His Body and Blood may, in purity of heart, always seek the bright Morning Star, Jesus Christ our LORD. **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 #677 "THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE"

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE - "WHEN THE MORNING STARS SANG TOGETHER" - GENE CLARKE



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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

Epiphany is a Greek word meaning “manifestation” or “appearance.” The festival of Epiphany is celebrated every year on January 6th, twelve days after Christmas, recalling the visit of the wise men. In their visit Christ is revealed, or made manifest, to the Gentiles, as these travelers were not Jews, but foreigners.

The date of January 6 coincides with the winter solstice (shortest day of the year) in the eastern Mediterranean world, where this festival was first observed. Prior to the 4th century, the birth of Christ was celebrated as part of Epiphany. The Eastern Orthodox churches continue to observe the ancient tradition of celebrating Christ’s birth on this day.

THIS DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR ...

Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

ABOUT THE READINGS...

ISAIAH 60:1-6: *Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God’s presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God’s praise.*

EPHESIANS 3:1-12: *What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God’s promised salvation.*

MATTHEW 2:1-12: *God’s promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

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: Joel Hammond, Christine Robins, Irmi,
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
GREETERS	Warren & Lois Adams
ASSISTING MINISTER	Ron Fried
LECTOR/CANTOR	Gwen Gibiser
USHERS	Roger & Gloria Knappenberger
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Amy Ortwein

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: **9:00 AM** Choir Rehearsal.
 9:30 AM Christian Education.
 10:30 AM Worship.

WED.: **9 AM** Quilting.

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

C O M I N G E V E N T S – 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 Joyce Christman in memory of family and friends.

SANCTUARY LAMP...by Bill and Kathy Exner.

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...

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.

Isaiah 60:1-6

60 Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,^z
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.