

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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**Baptism of Our Lord ✠ January 10, 2021**

**PRELUDE – "BY STILL WATERS" – E.K. HEYSER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our LORD in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## HYMN #304 CHRIST, WHEN FOR US YOU WERE BAPTIZED

### GREETING

P: The boundless grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The LORD be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### FIRST LESSON:

**GENESIS 1:1-5**

### PSALM 29

*Psalm Tone #8*

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**2Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

**3The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory  
thunders;**

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**4The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

**5The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;**

**6the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

**7The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.**

**8The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

**9The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the  
forests bare.**

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

**10The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

**11O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.**

### SECOND LESSON:

**ACTS 19:1-7**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 1:4-11**

The Gospel of the LORD.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN #455 CRASHING WATERS AT CREATION**

**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**

**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**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**BLESSING**

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

**PRAYER**

A: Let us pray...LORD God, grant that all who have been fed with  
Bread from heaven may be renewed in the covenant of their Holy  
Baptism and, following your Son in true faith and obedience, may  
become your children in name and deed; through Jesus Christ  
our LORD. **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the  
Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

**HYMN #838 BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE – “IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE” – DAVID E. GAWTHORP**

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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

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**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD:** *Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit/wind moved over the waters. Both Mark’s gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit’s movement that distinguishes Jesus’ baptism from John’s. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God’s beloved children and setting us on Jesus’ mission to re-create the world in the image of God’s vision of justice and peace.*

### **ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....**

**Genesis 1:1-5:** Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the primeval darkness, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for any person living in the chaos and darkness of despair. God created and continues to create new life.

**Acts 19:1-7:** In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John’s baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptized them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and empowered them with gifts of the Spirit.

**Mark 1:4-11:** Mark’s gospel reports the story of Jesus’ baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

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**THE CHARTS TO SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS, BULLETINS, SANCTUARY CANDLE AND WINE FOR 2021 ARE NOW ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS IN THE NARTHEX.** Please check the appropriate charts.

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**BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...** Bill Exner, Maggie Fried, Ron Fried, Shirley Hildebrand, Jerry Smith, Hattie Smith, Bob Storat, Sue Storat, Dean Stover, Steve

**Other concerns:** Kevin Jones, deployment; Todd and Dottie.  
*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.*

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## **WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD...**

**ALTAR FLOWERS...** Ken & Amy Ortwein

**SANCTUARY LAMP...** by Bill and Kathy Exner.

**COMMUNION BREAD...** by Warren and Lois Adams.

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## **LEADING OUR WORSHIP**

<b>CELEBRANT</b>	The Rev. James Hammond
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Dick Storat
<b>LECTOR</b>	Dick Storat
<b>GREETERS</b>	Ron & Carol Stoudt
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL REP</b>	Paula Clark

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## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**MONDAY, JAN. 11 – Church Council Meeting.**

**THURSDAY, JAN. 14 – Cub Pack #364 Meeting.**

**SUNDAY, JAN. 24 – Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following Worship.**

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**FYI** - Unfortunately, the **Word In Season** Devotional, that was recently mailed to members of Blue Church, was mishandled and damaged by the United States Postal Service. That is the reason that many of you are receiving empty envelopes in your mailbox.

As of January 1, we are following Year B for the year 2021.

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**PLEASE NOTE** – **The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2021, immediately following Worship. Please have all Committee Reports, etc. in the Church office by January 17<sup>th</sup> so they can be included in the report.**

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## **Betty Lou’s Pantry Christmas gift update (From Chris Page)**

To date we have collected \$12,440 from 81 individuals, 3 churches, 1 business (\$2500) and the football team (\$500). This does not include funds we continue to receive through PayPal. Each child and senior was given \$50 in Walmart cards and each family without children nor seniors a \$25 Walmart card and \$10 Giant card. Everyone received a \$25 Giant card. Faith UCC donated wrapping paper to go along with the cards. Thanks to everyone in Blue Church for their generous support.

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**THE ANNUAL COAT DRIVE** - Blue Church is collecting gently used coats for the winter season to help those who can use them. You can bring in coats and drop them in the bin in the narthex. Many thanks to all those who have already donated coats.

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## **BLUE CHURCH NOTES**

### **IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

- Masks must be worn at all times properly covering one's nose and mouth.
- There will be no formal collection of offering or passing of the peace. Receptacles will be provided in the narthex area for worshippers to deposit their offering envelopes (which may also be mailed in to the church office).
- In order to provide a sanitary and safe Holy Communion experience we are using pre-filled Communion chalices.

• **PLEASE NOTE** – *If you would like to help defray the extra expense of the Communion cups you can use your Communion envelope in your box of offering envelopes or a plain envelope marked "Communion" with your name.*

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### **WE ARE STILL COLLECTING DETERGENT DONATIONS**

**FOR BETTY LOU'S FOOD PANTRY.** They can be left at the side entrance to the church (red door) and someone will put them inside. Thanks again for being so generous with all your donations and volunteering to help those in need in our community!

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## **LESSONS**

### **Genesis 1:1-5 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

1In the beginning when God created\* the heavens and the earth, 2the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God\* swept over the face of the waters. 3Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### **Acts 19:1-7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

19While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 2He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' 3Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' 4Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' 5On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— 7altogether there were about twelve of them.

### **Mark 1:4-11 -Gospel**

4John the baptizer appeared\* in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8I have baptized you with\* water; but he will baptize you with\* the Holy Spirit.'

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on

him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved;\* with you I am well pleased.'

**St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church**  
**Prayers ✠ Baptism of Our Lord ✠**  
**January 10, 2021**

A: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need responding,

**"Have mercy, O God."**

*A brief silence*

A: For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray.

**"Have mercy, O God."**

*A brief silence*

A: For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made, let us pray.

**"Have mercy, O God."**

A: For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely, let us pray.

**"Have mercy, O God."**

A: For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer, that God shower compassion. Today we pray especially for: Bill, Maggie, Ron, Shirley, Jerry, Hattie, Bob, Sue, Dean, Kevin, Steve, Todd, Dottie, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Let us pray.

**"Have mercy, O God."**

A: For the congregation of Blue Church gathered here, for students returning to school, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray.

**"Have mercy, O God."**

A: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, let us pray.

**"Have mercy, O God."**

**Pastor: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

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