

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany ✠ January 21, 2018

PRELUDE — "AYRE" — GEORGE HANDEL
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

Loving God,

we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ✠ Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

HYMN #668

"O ZION, HASTE"

GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



☞ Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

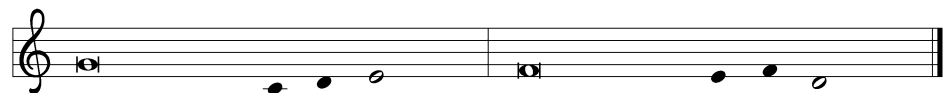
FIRST LESSON

JONAH 3:1-5, 10

PSALM 62:5-12

Sung responsively

ELW tone #10



⁵For God alone I | wait in silence;
truly, my hope | is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and | my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall nev- | er be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance | and my honor;
God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God al- | ways, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who | is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath;
those of low estate can- | not be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less | than a
breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no | empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your | heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice | have I heard it,
that power be- | longs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to | you, O Lord,
for you repay all according | to their deeds.**

SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

VERSE

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st Chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

MARK 1:14-20

P: The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #575

“IN CHRIST CALLED TO BAPTIZE”

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: “Have mercy, O God.”

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING – “LIVE FOR THE LORD” – AKERS & CARLSON

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...Merciful God,
**receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our
possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining
with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who
gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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.

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

P: We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

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 - #674 "LET US TALENTS AND TONGUES EMPLOY"

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

A: Let us pray...O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN #661

"I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY"

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE – “THE CALL TO SERVE” – TODD KENDALL

✠ ✠ ✠

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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

THIS DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR: EPIPHANY 3

Stories of the call to discipleship continue as the Time after Epiphany plays out the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of fisherman brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

JONAH 3:1-5, 10: *The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah’s dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question “On whom should God have mercy?”*

1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31: *Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God’s future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

MARK 1:14-20: *Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR.....Sick/Recovering: Anthony Abate, Clifford Benner, Joyce Christman, Maggie Fried, George Genoe, Doris Heiserman, Marie Miller, Carl Ritter, Shannon Silliman, Sue Storat

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
ORGANIST	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
GREETERS	Ron & Carol Stoudt
ASSISTING MINISTER	Ron Fried
LECTOR	Susan Clemens-Bruder
CANTOR	Ron Fried
USHERS	Marci Sumoski, Shirley Hildebrand
ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY	Kathy Exner
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Deb Stover

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY:	<u>9 AM</u> Choir Rehearsal at Blue Church. <u>9:30 – 10:15 AM</u> Christian Education. <u>10:30 AM</u> Worship. <u>12:15 PM</u> “Mission Possible” Luncheon Theater
WED.:	<u>9 AM</u> Quilting at Blue Church.
NEXT SUN.:	<u>9 AM</u> Choir Rehearsal. <u>9:30 AM – 10:15 AM</u> Christian Education resumes at Blue Church. <u>10:30 AM</u> Worship/Annual Congregational Mtg.

COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

JAN. 28th – Annual Congregational Meeting. Reports are due in the church office, or e-mailed by today, Jan. 21st for inclusion in the Annual Report.
FEB. 3, 2018 – Valentine’s Day Card Signing Party.
FEB. 4, 2018 – Scout Sunday at Blue Church.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS...by Bill Exner in honor of Kathy Exner’s Birthday.

BULLETINS...by Joyce Christman in memory of Family and Friends.

SANCTUARY LAMP...by David Link in memory of father's Birthday.

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Ron and Carol Stoudt

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 winter season. You can bring in coats for drop off in the bin in the narthex.

MISSION POSSIBLE: Coming to St. Paul's Blue Church **January 21, 2018!! TODAY!!!**

Tickets are on Sale for just \$4.00. Come join us for Lunch and an afternoon of entertainment by the "Blue Church Players". Don't miss out on all the fun. Please see Janet Hammond for tickets.

VALENTINE'S DAY CARD SIGNING PARTY at Blue Church Fellowship Hall, **Saturday, February 3rd**, at 10 AM. This event benefits the clients at Valley Manor Nursing Home in Coopersburg. Please bring a snack to share. Everyone welcome.

THE CHARTS TO SPONSOR THE ALTAR FLOWERS, BULLETINS, SANCTUARY LAMP AND THE WINE & COMMUNION BREAD FOR 2018 ARE ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS IN THE NARTHEX. Simply fill in the date on the appropriate chart that you would like to sponsor (in memory of/in honor of, etc.) and an envelope will be sent to you prior to that week for your payment. Altar Flowers - \$25.00; Bulletins - \$15.00; Sanctuary Lamp -\$4.00; Monthly Communion Wine & Bread - \$20.00.

ATTENTION LECTORS: *The sign-up sheet is in the narthex with the open dates for 2018. Lectors, please sign up for a date that is convenient for you. New people are always welcome! Your help is greatly appreciated.*

A PRAYER OF THE DAY – *Let me live the good news of salvation (Mark 1:15)*

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK – *Lord Jesus, our rock and our salvation, you called your disciples to follow you for the sake of others. Give us courage to use the power you bestow on us for the good of those in need. Amen.*

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

January 21, 2018 (3rd Sunday after the Epiphany)

Mark 1:17-18 –And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately Simon and Andrew left their nets and followed him."

What is you here for, and how what are you doing? Those ARE the questions for steward disciples. When Jesus invites Simon and Andrew to follow him, pursue a life of purpose and strength and "fish for people," they drop their nets and go. What nets do you need to drop to follow Jesus' invitation?

BLUE CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>DEC.</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
RECEIPTS	\$ 14,075.95	\$104,438.52
EXPENSES	\$ 11,845.88	\$158,854.75
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$ 2,230.07	(\$ 54,416.23)

ENDOWMENT FUND WITHDRAWN TO COVER EXPENSES
\$ 4,500.00 **\$54,000.00**

ENDOWMENT FUND INTEREST/REFUND
\$1,057.01 **\$ 8,925.14**

HAPPENING THIS WEEK....

JANUARY 26 – TIMOTHY, TITUS, AND SILAS, MISSIONARIES

On the two days following the celebration of the Conversion of Paul, his companions are remembered. Timothy, Titus, and Silas were missionary coworkers with Paul. Timothy accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey and was commissioned by Paul to go to Ephesus, where he served as bishop and overseer of the church. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, accompanied him on the trip to the council of Jerusalem, and became the first bishop of Crete. Silas traveled with Paul through Asia Minor and Greece and was imprisoned with him at Philippi, where they were delivered by an earthquake.
