

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

5900 Applebutter Hill Rd. Coopersburg, Pa 18036

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Pastor: Rev. James Hammond 610-437-1960; [jjtrev1@verizon.net](mailto:jjtrev1@verizon.net)

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

**John the Baptist ✕ June 24, 2018**

**PRELUDE – "PRELUDE IN E MINOR" – FREDERIC CHOPIN  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✕ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love. **Amen.**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence for reflection*

Eternal God our creator,  
**in you we live and move and have our being Look upon us,  
your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our  
offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty  
desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our  
strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ✕ forgives you all your sins. **Amen.**

## HYMN #533 "OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY"

### 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...Almighty God, by your gracious providence your servant John the Baptist was born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Grant to your people the wisdom to see your purpose and the openness to hear your will, that the light of Christ may increase in us, 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

### PSALM 141

*Sung responsively*

*Psalm Tone 10*



- 1** O LORD, I call to you; come | to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I | cry to you.
- 2** **Let my prayer rise before | you as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the | evening sacrifice.**
- 3** Set a watch before my | mouth, O LORD,  
and guard the door | of my lips.
- 4** **Let not my heart incline to any | evil thing.  
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers,  
nor eat of | their sweet foods.**
- 5** Let the righteous strike me; their rebukes, as oil upon the head,  
are not to | be refused.  
Yet my prayers are continually against the deeds | of the wicked.
- 6** **Let their rulers be thrown down up- | on the stones,  
that they may hear my words, for | they are sweet.**
- 7** Just as one who tills the earth | breaks the rock,  
so let their bones be scattered at the mouth | of the grave.
- 8** **But my eyes are turned to | you, Lord GOD;  
in you I take refuge; strip me not | of my life.**
- 9** Guard me from the trap that they have | laid for me  
and from the snares of | evildoers.
- 10** **Let the wicked fall into | their own nets,  
while I a- | lone pass through.**

## SECOND LESSON:

ACTS 13:13-26

### VERSE



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

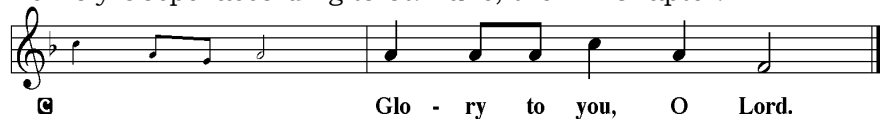


Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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



**THE HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 1:57-67 (68-80)**

The Gospel of the LORD.



**SERMON**

**HYMN #790 – “DAY BY DAY”**

**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 : Your mercy is great.*

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING – “FAITH THE CORNERSTONE” – EDWARD BROUGHTON**

*Offering is gathered for the poor and those with needs in our community and world.*

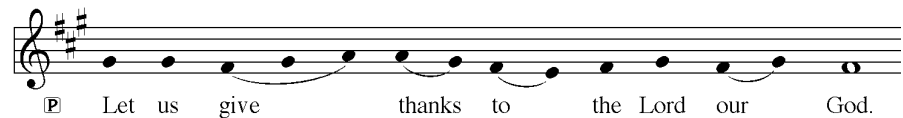
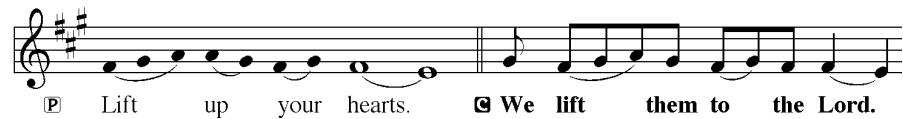
**OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884**

*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: Merciful God, through the ages countless men and women have offered you their praises, discipleship, talents and lives. Accept and bless these gifts as we give you thanks for John the Baptist and bring us to share with all your saints in the everlasting Feast of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



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



## 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**

### INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

### LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

### HOLY COMMUNION HYMN:#773 "PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND"

### BLESSING

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

### PRAYER

Let us pray...Almighty God, as we have commemorated John the  
Baptist in this most Holy Sacrament you have brought us near to an  
innumerable company of angels, apostles, martyrs, and saints.  
Keep us in fellowship with them until at last we may attain to your  
eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we  
can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty  
God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### HYMN #796 - "HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION"

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE – "HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION" – TOM BIRCHWOOD

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Fortress, license #15175-L. All rights reserved. Psalm 141., reprinted from *Psalter for Worship Year C*  
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permission.

### 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

### JOHN THE BAPTIST...

We are now on the far side of the sun from Christmas and the  
celebration of Jesus' birth. In the Northern Hemisphere the days now  
begin to grow shorter as we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist,  
the forerunner of Messiah. In comparing himself to Jesus, John once  
said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." Though John was  
eager to see his own ministry eclipsed, Jesus honored John as being  
the greatest prophet.

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

**MALACHI 3:1-4:** *The prophet Malachi announces the coming of  
one who will prepare a way for God's arrival. His burning program of  
reform will make God's people ready for salvation.*

**ACTS 13:13-26:** *In Antioch of Pisidia, Paul preaches in the  
synagogue and recalls the ministry of John the Baptist, showing how  
John was the pivot point between history and the new acts God was  
performing through Jesus.*

**LUKE 1:57-80:** *The birth and naming of John ends his father  
Zechariah's silence. He announces the child's name given by the angel  
and speaks a prophecy about the newborn infant.*

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** Son of God, you calmed the storm and replaced fear with wonder. Increase our faith so that we do not fear doing bold things in your name. Amen.

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**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.

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**BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR.....Sick/Recovering:** Claire Biser, Joyce Christman, Connie Fazekas, Inge Genoe, Doris Heiserman, Jason Homlish, Mary Levy, Carl Ritter, Joanne Ritter, Viletta Schantzenbach, Shannon Silliman, Irm  
*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.*

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**LEADING OUR WORSHIP**

<b>CELEBRANT</b>	The Rev. James Hammond
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
<b>GREETERS</b>	Mike and Paula Clark
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Amy Ortwein
<b>LECTOR</b>	Amy Ortwein
<b>CANTOR</b>	Ron Fried
<b>USHERS</b>	John and Marcy Sumoski
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL REP</b>	Amy Ortwein
<b>ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY</b>	Joyce Fulford

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**CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD**

**TODAY:** 9:30 AM **Worship.**  
**Community Day Meeting immediately following Worship.**

**WED.:** 9 AM Quilting at Blue Church.

**NEXT SUN.:** 9:30 AM **Worship.**

*COMING EVENTS - mark your calendar!*

**SUNDAY, JULY 8 - SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING regarding the Blue Church Wall.**

**JULY 29 - Yard Sale Committee Meeting immediately following Worship. Please plan to attend with your thoughts, ideas, and input.**

**OCTOBER - BLUE CHURCH YARD SALE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>.**

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**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:**  
**ALTAR FLOWERS...**by Joyce Fulford in memory of Loved Ones.  
**BULLETINS...**by Joyce Christman in memory of family and friends.  
**COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...**by Sandy Giannattasio

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**THE DATE HAS BEEN SET!! BLUE CHURCH WILL HAVE A YARD SALE ON OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>. Mark your calendar. It's not too early to start saving all your unwanted "treasures" for this event.**

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**BLUE CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

	<u>MAY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	\$ 5,418.38	\$35,673.63
<b>EXPENSES</b>	\$13,782.88	\$77,094.63
<b>(DEFICIT)</b>	(\$ 8,364.50)	(\$41,421.00)

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<b>ENDOWMENT FUND WITHDRAWN TO COVER EXPENSES</b>		
	\$4,500.00	\$22,500.00
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND INTEREST/REFUND</b>		\$ 4,046.80

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**HAPPENING THIS WEEK.....**

**JUNE 24 - JOHN THE BAPTIST**

The birth and life of John the Baptist are celebrated exactly six months before Christmas Eve. For Christians in the Northern Hemisphere, these two dates are deeply symbolic. John said that he must decrease as Jesus increased. According to tradition, John was born as the days are longest and then steadily decrease, while Jesus was born as the days are shortest and then steadily increase. In many countries this day is celebrated with customs associated with the summer solstice.

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