

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; jitrev1@verizon.net

Blue Church Cemetery – 484-201-5048 or 484-375-5875;

e-mail: bluechurchcemetery@gmail.com

The Second Sunday after Pentecost – June 6, 2021

PRELUDE – “Blessed Assurance” – Robert Thygeron

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

God our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ☩ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

HYMN #556 “MORNING HAS BROKEN”

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...All powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

GENESIS 3:8-15

PSALM 130

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

SECOND LESSON:

2 CORINTHIANS 4:13–5:1

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 3rd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

MARK 3:20-35

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #623

“ROCK OF AGES”

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: hear our prayer.

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,**

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and

PRAYER

Let us pray...Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #860

"I'M SO GLAD JESUS LIFTED ME"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — "FINALE" — JOHAN HELMICH ROMAN

✠ ✠ ✠

Liturgical music reprinted from **Lutheran Book of Worship**, © 1978. Used by permission of Augsburg-Fortress, license #15175-L. All rights reserved. Psalm 130 is reprinted from *Psalter for Worship Year B* copyright 2008 Augsburg Fortress. Copying of any music in this bulletin prohibited without written 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

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are sisters and brothers of the Lord. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

GENESIS 3:8-15: *Immediately after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, they hide from God. Neither takes responsibility for their sin, instead blaming each other, the snake, and even God. The curse on the snake was understood as a messianic prophecy by the early church, who associated Eve's "offspring" with Christ.*

2 CORINTHIANS 4:13—5:1: *Life in the present is transitory and cannot compare with the eternal home God has prepared for us. So we do not despair no matter what life might bring because we know that as God raised Jesus from the dead, God promises to bring us into eternal life.*

MARK 3:20-35: *In response to charges that he is possessed, Jesus wonders aloud how anyone who is demon-possessed can cast out demons. Those who do the will of God are possessed by the Holy Spirit, sisters and brothers of Christ.*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother. (*Mark 3:35*)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Lord Jesus Christ, you have called us to be one family in your love. Remove the divisions that separate us from each other and unite us in common service to the world. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Cliff Benner, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Dr. Roger Fischer, Ann Greensweig, Andrea Incacaterra, Frank Kelly, Peter Link, Jerry Smith, Sue Storat, Stephen.

Other concerns:

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
ASSISTING MINISTER	Dick Storat
LECTOR	Dick Storat
GREETERS	Ron & Carol Stoudt
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Paula Clark

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD: ALTAR FLOWERS...by Anne Nichols in memory of Herbert Francis; and in honor of Shane and Kim Coleman’s Birthday.

PLEASE PASS IT ON...Pastor Jim is now available to make home visits for those wishing Holy Communion. He has had both his shots but the proper Covid precautions will still be needed (mask wearing). Please call the church office (610-965-9500) to set up an appointment for the visit. Please leave a message and we will get back to you.

LOOKING AHEAD

<p>JUNE 13 – 9:30 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Hall is air-conditioned for the summer Worship services.</p> <p>MON. JUNE 14 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.</p>

BETTY LOU’S PANTRY UPDATE...Most needed donations at the pantry right now:

Tuna Helper Chunky Soups Baked Beans Kidney Beans
Other things always needed:

Toilet paper, jelly (other than grape), non-sugared cereal, hygiene products (other than soap)

Also, they are looking for someone to take over managing the database of patrons, volunteers, church dates, etc., and reporting weekly numbers to Second Harvest. Excel is currently used.

Also looking for someone to take over coordinating the volunteers for the two distributions. This requires use of emails and texts. If anyone is interested, please contact Chris Page (or talk to Deb Stover - 484-437-3831) for more information.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK.....

JUNE 11– BARNABAS, APOSTLE

The Eastern church commemorates Barnabas as one of the Seventy commissioned by Jesus. Though he was not among the Twelve mentioned in the gospels, the book of Acts gives him the title of apostle. His name means “son of encouragement.” When Paul came to Jerusalem after his conversion, Barnabas took him in over the fears of the other apostles, who doubted Paul’s discipleship.

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPETS

Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 6, 2021

And looking at those who sat around him, [Jesus] said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.’ – Mark 3:34-35

When God gives us opportunities to forge new relationships, whether within and outside of our church and family circles, take the time to cultivate and tend them. We can take the cue from Jesus, who was always expanding his circle of friends and family.

LESSONS

Genesis 3:8-15 – 1st Lesson

8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' ¹⁰He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' ¹¹He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' ¹²The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

'Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.'

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 – 2nd Lesson

¹³ But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Mark 3:20-35 - Gospel

²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He

has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.’ ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

28 ‘Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin’— ³⁰for they had said, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’

31 Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, ‘Your mother and your brothers and sisters* are outside, asking for you.’ ³³And he replied, ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.’

St. Paul’s Lutheran “Blue” Church
Prayers ☒ 2nd Sunday after Pentecost ☒
June 6, 2021

A: Let us come before the triune God in prayer, responding,

“hear our prayer.”

A brief silence

A: God of wholeness, we pray for believers all over the globe. Unify us in service of the gospel, that we may work together as beloved siblings to share your love with all.

Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: God of the cosmos, we pray for creation; the gardens, waterways and creatures near to us and diverse forms of life that remain unseen. Teach us to treat the natural world with reverence, seeking restoration when human divisions have caused harm to your beloved creation.

Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: God of all people, we pray for harmony among the nations. Cast out from us unclean spirits of greed and fear, that we may work in solidarity with one another for the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: God of abundance, we pray for those who are oppressed or in any need. Encourage those who have begun to lose heart. Strengthen and renew us with your Spirit. Today we pray especially for: Clifford, Sandra, Bill, Roger, Ann, Andrea, Frank, Peter, Jerry, Sue, Stephen, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: God of righteousness, we pray for Blue Church. Set our gaze upon things eternal, that in thanksgiving for your mercy, we may extend grace to more and more people. Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: God of the ages, in your goodness you have sent us faithful witnesses for every time and place. We give you thanks for those saints who now rest in your eternal mercy. Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

Pastor: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. Amen.