

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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

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Seventh Sunday of Easter – May 16, 2021

PRELUDE - "MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE" – LLOYD LARSON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism

P: We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

P: We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

P: Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

P: Make us one, risen Christ. Cleans our hearts. Shower us with life.

P: To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN #843 PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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...Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in 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:

ACTS 1:15-17, 21-26

PSALM 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND LESSON:

1 JOHN 5:9-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

JOHN 17:6-19

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #658 O JESUS JOY OF LOVING HEARTS

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 in great.

EUCCHARISTIC 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

Let us pray...Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put
gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send
us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of
all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love
the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and
forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #838 *BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR*

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE – “TO GOD BE THE GLORY” – LLOYD LARSON

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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

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR....SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The gospel for Easter’s seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John’s gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus’ desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. His oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding interpenetrating life, mutual love and joy. His oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

ACTS 1:15-17, 21-26: *In the days between Jesus’ ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas’ treachery and death.*

1 JOHN 5:9-13: *God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.*

JOHN 17:6-19: *In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death. This gospel reports the words of Jesus' prayer, a prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.*

PRAYER FOR 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER: Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (See John 15:16)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Spirit of the living God, restore us, strengthen us, and lead us in service to all in need. Keep us in your truth and unite us in one hope. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR... Cliff Benner, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Dr. Roger Fischer, Ann Greensweig, Carly Hampton, Andrea Incacaterra, Walt Lehr, Peter Link, Ken Ortwein, 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	Maggie Fried
LECTOR	Maggie Fried
GREETERS	Greg & Wendy Storat
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	John Sumoski

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS...by Greg & Wendy Storat in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.

SANCTUARY LAMP...by Greg & Wendy Storat in honor of their Wedding Anniversary; and in memory of Keith Storat.

COMMUNION WINE & BREAD...by Greg & Wendy Storat

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

SAT. MAY 22 – Workday in the Blue Church Garden. Come and help get the garden ready for summer planting. Bring shovels, etc.

SUN. MAY 23 – 10:30 AM WORSHIP – Day of Pentecost – Wear Red.

SUN. MAY 30 – Last 10:30 AM Worship until September.

JUNE 6 – 9:30 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Hall will be air-conditioned for the summer Worship services.

THE COAT DRIVE HAS NOW ENDED UNTIL NEXT WINTER.

Thank you for all your donations.

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.

BLUE CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
RECEIPTS	\$ 8,478.00	\$48,626.85
EXPENSES	\$ 9,673.04	\$46,880.76
<u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>	\$ (1,954.04)	\$ 1,746.09
ENDOWMENT FUND WITHDRAWN TO COVER EXPENSES		
	\$0	\$0
ENDOWMENT FUND INTEREST/REFUND		\$0

LESSONS

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 – 1st Lesson

15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers* (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ¹⁶‘Friends,* the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.’

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.’ ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place* in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

1 John 5:9-13 – 2nd Lesson

⁹If we receive human testimony; the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God* have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God

gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 17:6-19 - Gospel

6 ‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that* you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost,* so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.* ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I

have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✠ Seventh Sunday of Easter ✠
May 16, 2021

A: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love, responding,
"Your mercy is great."

A brief silence

A: Holy God, in Christ Jesus the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and unify us as Christ's body. Send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Hear us, O God.
"Your mercy is great."

A: Mighty God, the world is your handiwork, displaying your creative impulse. Seas teem with life, forests reach up to praise you, and the mystery of life lies deep in the soil. Guard and keep this world for the well-being of all your creatures. Hear us, O God.
"Your mercy is great."

A: Gracious Sovereign, those who follow your ways are like trees planted near streams of water. Establish the leaders of nations and all in authority in your grace and truth. Strengthen them, so that the people they serve will have abundant life. Hear us, O God.
"Your mercy is great."

A: Generous Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, or rejected. Grant healing and love to all in need. Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. Today we pray especially for: Clifford, Sandra, Bill, Roger, Ann, Carly, Andrea, Walt, Peter, Ken, Jerry, Sue, Stephen, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us, O God.
"Your mercy is great."

A: Creator God, here at Blue Church we share the gift of praying, learning, and supporting one another. Give us thankful hearts as we claim the gifts that are unique to us and keep us from being envious of others with different gifts. Hear us, O God.
"Your mercy is great."

A: Saving God, your wonderful promise is the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Through the witness of those who have died in you, strengthen us now in this gift of life. We cherish the memory of your saints. Hear us, O God.
"Your mercy is great."

Pastor: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.