

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; jjtrev1@verizon.net
Blue Church Cemetery – 484-201-5048 or 484-375-5875;
e-mail: bluechurchcemetery@gmail.com

Christ the King ☩ November 21, 2021

PRELUDE – "FAIREST LORD JESUS" – TIM DORAN
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Spirit.
Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence for reflection

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for ☩ Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God, **Amen.**

HYMN #805 LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL!

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 and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

DANIEL 7:9-10, 13-14

PSALM 93 *Spoken responsively*

¹The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

²**Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; you are from everlasting.**

³The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice;

the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

⁴**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.**

⁵Your testimonies are very sure, and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore.

SECOND LESSON:

REVELATION 1:4B-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 18th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

JOHN 18:33-37

The Gospel of the LORD.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

ANTHEM "GIVE THANKS TO GOD" – KEN BIBLE & DENNIS ALLEN

HYMN – #681 WE PLOW THE FIELDS AND SCATTER

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: 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,
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, in this Most Holy Sacrament you have given
Christ, the King of all creation, as food for eternal life. Give us
the grace to live by His Gospel, and bring us to the joy of His
Kingdom, where He lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the
book of life, ✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time
forth and forevermore. **Amen.**

HYMN #881 *LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING*

DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE – “THIS IS MY FATHER’S WORLD” – DAVID
HUNTSINGER**

✠ ✠ ✠

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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....CHRIST THE KING ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, they still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king’s title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the “one like a human being” (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel’s vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

DANIEL 7:9-10, 13-14: *To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel’s message is: It shall end. The Ancient One who is judge will call all nations to account and will give dominion to “one like a human being,” the Messiah.*

REVELATION 1:4B-8: *The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.*

JOHN 18:33-37: *In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: Jesus, help us recognize your reign in human life.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: LORD Jesus, we praise you as our king who reigns from the throne of the cross. Look upon all the suffering people of the world and come to them with your mercy. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR... Marie Berghold, Cyndi Cline, Sandra Denora, Ann Greensweig, Ray Hammond, Anita Johnson, Frank Kelly, 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:
COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...**by Dean and Deb Stover

LOOKING AHEAD

THURS. NOV. 25 – Blessed Thanksgiving.

SUN. NOV. 28– No Choir Rehearsal.

SUN. NOV. 28 – 10:30 AM Worship – 1st Sunday of Advent

We will be decorating the church for Advent immediately after Worship today. Please plan to stay and help get the church ready for the upcoming season.

The Advent Season begins Sunday, November 28th. Come each Sunday and meet God's puppet creatures of the season.

JoAn Hottenstein is now residing in Assisted Living at Lutheran Home at Telford. She would love to hear from you and would welcome your calls or notes. Her address is Lutheran Home at Telford, 235 N. Washington St., Apt. 145, Telford, Pa. 18969. Her phone number is (610) 737-6170.

THE ANNUAL COAT DRIVE IS NOW UNDER WAY. Blue Church is collecting gently used coats for the winter season to help those who can use them. You can drop them in the bin in the narthex.

THE LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT LUTHERAN INGATHERING BOX IS IN THE NARTHEX. The Ingathering is to brighten the holy season of Christmas for our Christian brothers and sisters who have special needs. **November 28th** is the deadline for the items. Kindly check the suggested items requested on the flyer included in the bulletin.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – The sign-up chart is on the bulletin board in the Narthex to sponsor poinsettias to adorn the altar area at Christmas. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran (Blue) Church. Last day to order is Nov. 28th.

Please remember to use the Amazon Smile Program for all your upcoming purchases. It's an opportunity to earn money for Blue Church. The Amazon Foundation will donate 0.05% of the price of your eligible purchases at no cost to you.

Dear Members of St. Paul's Blue Church,

On behalf of Betty Lou's Food Pantry it is my pleasure to thank you for donating the \$442 raised from the "Garden of Giving" to our Pantry. We especially want to thank John Sumoski and everyone else who helped with this wonderful project.

We continue to add new families each month. The food helps our patrons meet their nutritional needs allowing them to live independently in their homes as long as possible. Each month our patrons not only receive food, but a \$25 Giant gift card. Thank you for donating to our Pantry so we can provide food to those in need in our community. We are most appreciative. Thank you!

**Sincerely,
Anne Nichols**

LESSONS

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 – 1st Lesson

⁹ As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One* took his throne;
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.
¹⁰ A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousand served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood
attending him.
The court sat in judgement,
and the books were opened. ¹³As I watched in
the night visions,
I saw one like a human being*
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One*
and was presented before him.
¹⁴ To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Revelation 1:4b-8 – 2nd Lesson

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed* us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made* us to be a kingdom, priests serving* his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

8 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

John 18:33-37 - Gospel

33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters* again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' 34 Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' 35 Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' 36 Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' 37 Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church

Prayers ✠ Christ the King ✠

November 21, 2021

A: Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need, responding,

"hear our prayer."

A brief silence

A: God, you sent your Son Jesus to testify to the truth. We pray for preachers, missionaries, evangelists, and teachers who carry your forgiveness and love to the world. Fill their words and actions with compassion and kindness so that your truth will shine. God, in your mercy,

"hear our prayer."

A: God, you sent your Son Jesus to liberate all of creation. We pray for all living things longing for the freedom to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them. God, in your mercy,

"hear our prayer."

A: God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the ways of peace. Direct the members of international alliances in choosing a nonviolent path toward the future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions to benefit all. God, in your mercy,

"hear our prayer."

A: God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, set free to serve you. We pray for people who serve the wellbeing of others, especially ministries in our community. Renew them in their work. God, in your mercy,

"hear our prayer."

A: God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and places. We pray for the friends of Blue Church who are unable to join our worship in person and for all who are sick and suffering. Join their prayers with ours and unite them with us in the body of Christ. Today we pray especially for: Marie, Cyndi, Sandra, Ann, Ray, Anita, Frank, Stephen, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. God, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: God, you sent your Son Jesus to be our beginning and our ending. We give thanks for those whose lives have given us a glimpse of Jesus’ reign of justice and peace. Empower us to join their witness. God, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

Pastor: God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT CHRISTMAS IN-GATHERING **2021**

Blue Church is asked to kindly provide ONLY the listed small items below for the two local support agencies indicated.

All items should remain unwrapped and can be placed in the large bin in the Narthex. Cash or check donations made out to Blue Church are also appreciated and will be used to purchase the needed items.

1) YMCA Warming Station

- New men's underwear, all sizes
- New women's underwear, all sizes
- New white bath towels
- Microwave safe non-perishable foods

2) Boys and Girls Club of Allentown

- Christmas plates
- Christmas plastic cups for cold beverages
- Christmas napkins
- Christmas plastic tablecloths
- Christmas Candy
- Candy Canes

Thank you for your much needed support for the Lehigh Mission District's Christmas In-Gathering!

Please contact Wendy or Greg if you need assistance.

Wendy & Greg Storat
703-731-8728
wendywines@gmail.com