

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

***The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – October 3, 2021***

## **PRELUDE – “Peace Be With You” – Daniel Gawthrop ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence for reflection*

God our comforter,  
**like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

**HYMN #876 LET THE WHOLE CREATION CRY**

### **GREETING**

From God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray...Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

### **FIRST LESSON:**

**GENESIS 2:18-24**

### **PSALM 8** *Spoken responsively*

<sup>1</sup>O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

<sup>2</sup>**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;**

**you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

<sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

<sup>4</sup>**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:**

<sup>7</sup>all flocks and cattle,

even the wild beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup>**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

<sup>9</sup>O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

### **SECOND LESSON:**

**HEBREWS 1:1-4; 2:5-12**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL:**

**MARK 10:2-16**

The Gospel of the LORD.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **THE SERMON**

**HYMN #656**

***BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS***

### **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 keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

#### PRAYER

Let us pray...Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

#### BENEDICTION

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ✠ one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN #543**    *GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE – “POSTLUDE #4” – CHRISTIAN HEINRICH RINCK

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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

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### THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR....THE 20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

*Today’s gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus’ saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God’s law. Jesus’ rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?*

**GENESIS 2:18-24:** *Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other “one flesh.” The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman)*

**HEBREWS 1:-4; 2:5-12:** *Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God’s right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.*

**MARK 10:2-16:** *Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God’s surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.*

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**PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 20:** God speaks to us through the Son. (Hebrews 1:2)

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** Lord our God, help us to receive your kingdom as little children, trusting in your mercy and grace. Amen.

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**BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...**Cyndie Cline, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Ann Greensweig, Ray Hammond, Frank Kelly, Robin King, Sue Storat, Kathy, Connie, 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.*

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**LEADING OUR WORSHIP**

<b>CELEBRANT</b>	The Rev. James Hammond
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Maggie Fried
<b>LECTOR</b>	Maggie Fried
<b>GREETERS</b>	John & Marcy Sumoski
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL REP</b>	Roger Knappenberger

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**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:**

**ALTAR FLOWERS...**by Anne Nichols in honor of Carly Hampton’s Birthday.

**COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...**by Roger & Edie Knappenberger

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

**MON. OCTOBER 4 – 7 – 8 PM Girl Scouts**

**SUN. OCTOBER 10 – 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal. If you enjoy singing, please join us at this time. New members are always welcome.**

**SUN. OCTOBER 10 – 10:30 AM Worship.**

**MON. OCTOBER 11 - 7 PM – Church Council Meeting.**

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

Tuna Helper Chunky Soups Canned Pasta Boxed Potatoes

Other things always needed:

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

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**BLUE CHURCH** has reached its goal for laundry detergent for Betty Lou’s Pantry. No more is needed at this time but thank you all for your generosity!!

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**THINKING AHEAD OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR OUR PANTRY FAMILIES.** In view of the still unstable virus spread, we will again forego physical presents and give gift cards so parents can purchase gifts for the children. Donations can be put in the collection plate on Sundays or sent to the church by mail. Please make checks out to BLUE CHURCH so one check can be sent to Betty Lou’s Pantry. Just please remember to put in the memo line that your donation is for BLP Christmas gift cards. Please have donations in by November 14<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for all your help!

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**THERE ARE STILL MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWER, BULLETINS, SANCTUARY CANDLES, ETC.** for the rest of the year. Please check the open dates on the calendars on the Bulletin Boards in the Narthex.

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**THIS WEEK IN THE CHURCH YEAR...**

**October 7, Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787**

Muhlenberg was prominent in setting the course for Lutheranism in North America. He helped Lutheran churches make the transition from the state churches of Europe to a new identity on American soil. Among other things, he established the first Lutheran synod in America and developed an American Lutheran liturgy. His liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888, used in many North American service books for a majority of the past century. That Muhlenberg and his work are remembered today was anticipated at his death. The inscription on his grave reads in Latin, “Who and what he was, future ages will know without a stone.”

## LESSONS

### **Genesis 2:18-24 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

18 Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.'<sup>19</sup> So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.<sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man\* there was not found a helper as his partner.<sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.<sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.<sup>23</sup> Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman,\* for out of Man\* this one was taken.'<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

### **Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

**1** Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,<sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,\* whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.<sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains\* all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,<sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

5 Now God\* did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels.<sup>6</sup> But someone has testified somewhere, 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them,\* or mortals, that you care for them?\*' <sup>7</sup> You have made them for a little while lower\* than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour,\* <sup>8</sup> subjecting all things under their feet.' Now in subjecting all things to them, God\* left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them,<sup>9</sup> but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower\* than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so

that by the grace of God\* he might taste death for everyone.

10 It was fitting that God,\* for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father.\* For this reason Jesus\* is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,\* <sup>12</sup>saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,\* in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

### **Mark 10:2-16 - Gospel**

2 Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' <sup>3</sup>He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' <sup>4</sup>They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' <sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." <sup>7</sup>"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,\* <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

10 Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.'

13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

**St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church**  
**Prayers ✕ 19th Sunday after Pentecost ✕**  
**October 3, 2021**

A: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need, responding,

**"hear our prayer."**

*A brief silence*

A: Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians, that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

**"hear our prayer."**

A: You have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the world you created. Lord, in your mercy,

**"hear our prayer."**

A: You desire for us not to be alone and to live in community with one another. Strengthen relationships between nations and peoples, that we celebrate and support one human family. Lord, in your mercy,

**"hear our prayer."**

A: You share in our experiences and struggles. Bless all who live with any mental or physical disability. Inspire creative communities, spaces, and environments that are accessible and hospitable. Today we pray especially for: Cyndie, Sandra, Bill, Ann, Ray, Frank, Robin, Sue, Kathy, Connie, Stephen, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

**"hear our prayer."**

A: You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless

members who can no longer travel to worship with us and remind us of their continued role in Blue Church. Lord, in your mercy,

**"hear our prayer."**

A: You promise eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the people of faith who have gone before us. Strengthen our trust we have in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**"hear our prayer."**

**Pastor: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**