

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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**Reformation Day ✠ October 31, 2021**

**PRELUDE – "EIN FESTE BURG" – JOHANN CHRISTOPH BACH  
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 #504 *A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD*

## 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...Almighty God, gracious LORD, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, 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:

**JEREMIAH 31:31-34**

## PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

**2Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**4There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.

**6The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**8Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the  
shields with fire.

**10"Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the  
earth."**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## SECOND LESSON:

**ROMANS 3:19-28**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter.  
Glory to you, O Lord.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL:

**JOHN 8:31-36**

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

**ANTHEM "HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION"**

**– DAVE WILLIAMSON**

**HYMN – #596 *MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS***

## 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 is great.*

## 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

Let us pray...God our Father, at His Last Supper your Son prayed  
that His followers might be one. Strengthen us with this most Holy  
Sacrament and unite all your people in the one Church—the Body  
of our LORD Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

Mothering God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you  
into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

## HYMN #654 THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

### DISMISSAL

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

### POSTLUDE — "TO GOD BE THE GLORY" — TIM DORAN

✠ ✠ ✠

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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:

**REFORMATION SUNDAY:** *Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

## ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

**JEREMIAH 31:31-34:** *The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

**ROMANS 3:19-28:** *Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and the other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

**JOHN 8:31-36:** *Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

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**BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...** Marie Berghold, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Ann Greensweig, Ray Hammond, Frank Kelly, Penny, Stephen, the family and friends of Eileen Stoudt.

### 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>	Greg & Wendy Storat
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL REP</b>	John & Marcy Sumoski

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

**ALTAR FLOWERS...** Deb Stover in honor of Dean's Birthday.

**BULLETINS...** by Ron & Carol Stoudt in honor of Ron's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

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

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## LOOKING AHEAD

**MON. NOV. 1 – 6:30 PM Girl Scouts.**

**THURS. NOV. 4 – 6:30 – 7:30 PM Cub Pack #364.**

**SUN. NOV. 7 – 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal.**

**SUN. NOV. 7 – 10:30 AM Worship – All Saints Sunday.**

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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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**THE ANNUAL COAT DRIVE IS NOW UNDER WAY.** Don't throw out your old coats. Blue Church is collecting gently used coats for the winter season to help those who can use them. You can bring in coats and drop them in the bin in the narthex. They are greatly appreciated.

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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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**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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## **LESSONS**

### **Jeremiah 31:31-34 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,\* says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the LORD', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### **Romans 3:19-28 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For 'no human being will be justified in his sight' by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now, irrespective of law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ\* for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement\* by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.\*

27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

### **John 8:31-36 - Gospel**

31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' <sup>33</sup>They answered him, 'We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, "You will be made free"?'

34 Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The

slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever.  
<sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church  
Prayers ✠ Reformation Sunday ✠  
October 31, 2021

A: Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation, responding,

**"Your mercy is great."**

*A brief silence*

A: We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim our love for all people with persistence and hope. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: We pray for all who aspire to public office and for all who will vote on Tuesday at local polling places. Pour wisdom and understanding upon all who govern so that communities of justice and peace may thrive. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit. Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recover centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Today we pray especially for: Marie, Sandra, Bill, Ann, Ray, Frank, Stephen, Penny, the family and friends of Eileen Stoudt, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation. Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reformation. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

**Pastor: Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life. Amen.**



# Reformation Sunday