

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; e-mail: bluechurchcemetery@gmail.com

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠ September 2, 2018

PRELUDE – "SUPPLICATION" – LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection

Source of all life,

we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ✠ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

HYMN #717 "LET JUSTICE FLOW LIKE STREAMS"

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

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2, 6-9

PSALM 15 *Sung responsively* *Tone 5*



- ¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your | holy hill?
²**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart;**
³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.
⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who
| fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back
their word.**
⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

SECOND LESSON: JAMES 1:17-27

VERSE



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

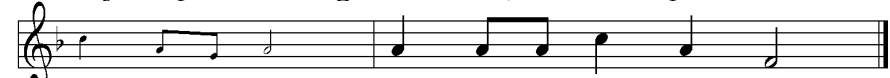


Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th Chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Gospel of the LORD.



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #793 – “BE THOU MY VISION”

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING – “OFFERTORIUM” GORDON YOUNG

Offering is gathered for the poor and those with needs in our community and world.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav’nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

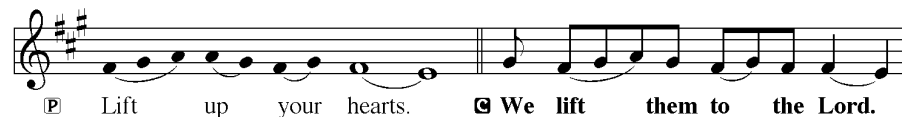
OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of life,
**you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life
and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and
use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.**

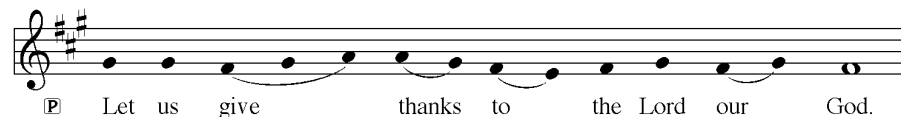
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join
unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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


INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

HOLY COMMUNION HYMN: #592 "JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA"

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER

Let us pray...Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #824 – "THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE- "POSTLUDE"- DE MONTI

☩ ☩ ☩

Liturgical music reprinted from **Lutheran Book of Worship**, © 1978. Used by permission of Augsburg-Fortress, license #15175-L. All rights reserved. Psalm 15., reprinted from *Psalter for Worship Year C* 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

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR....THE 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been washed in the word when we were born in the font, return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2, 6-9: *The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and neither to add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.*

JAMES 1:17-27: *The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here, Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.*

MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23: *Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.*

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 15: Let me be a doer of the word and not only a hearer. (See James 1:22)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Living God, you call us to live our faith in word and deed. Deliver us from religious hypocrisy and bless our service for those less fortunate than ourselves. Amen.

PLEASE NOTE: - For those people wishing to take Holy Communion without wine, there are four cups in the center of the Communion tray with grape juice.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR.....Sick/Recovering: Claire Biser, Alton DeBold, Wendy Porter, Ann Ramage, Irmis, Rachel
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 persons 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
GREETER	Bill Winkler
ASSISTING MINISTER	Dick Storat
LECTOR	Dick Storat
CANTOR	Ron Fried
USHERS	Shirley Hildebrand, Maggie Fried
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Roger Knappenberger
ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY	Ron & Maggie Fried

Pastor Jim will be on vacation through September 14th. If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please contact the church office or Rev. John Hart at (610) 282-3290.

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: 9:30 AM Worship. (Last 9:30 - 10:30 AM Worship resumes next Sunday.)

WED.: 9 AM Quilting.

NEXT SUN.: 9 AM Choir Practice resumes. New members are welcome.
10:30 AM WORSHIP/HYMN SING (LESSONS, PRAYERS, FAVORITE HYMNS).

COMING EVENTS - mark your calendar!

SEPT. 9, 9:00 AM CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES. New members are especially welcomed.

SEPT. 10 - 7:00 PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING.

SEPT. 15 - COOPERSBURG COMMUNITY DAY.

SEPT. 23 - RALLY DAY AT BLUE CHURCH.

SEPT. 30 - NEW MEMBER CLASSES (See Pastor Jim)

OCTOBER - BLUE CHURCH YARD SALE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH AT LOWER MILFORD TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY, LIMEPORT.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS...by Ronald Stoudt in honor of Carol's Birthday.

BULLETINS...by Dean & Deb Stover in honor of the Birthdays of Dani, Drew, and Justin.

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Joyce Fulford

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE SIGN-UP SHEETS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR WAYS TO HELP WITH COMMUNITY DAY ON SEPTEMBER 15TH. There are a lot of opportunities for you to help.

THE PRODUCE ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX IS FROM THE BLUE CHURCH "GIVING GARDEN". Please feel free to take what you can use and leave a donation in the "Cabbage". All monies will be donated to Betty Lou's Food Pantry to help feed the hungry.

BETTY LOU'S FOOD PANTRY is especially in need of the following items: Catsup, mustard, mayonnaise and coffee.

THE DATE HAS BEEN SET!! BLUE CHURCH WILL HAVE A YARD SALE ON OCTOBER 13TH. Mark your calendar. It's not too early to start saving all your unwanted "treasures" for this event.

THERE ARE STILL OPEN DATES TO SPONSOR THE SANCTUARY CANDLE, BULLETINS, ETC. Please check the appropriate chart on the Bulletin Boards in the Narthex.

Do you see anything around Blue Church that needs repairs? If so, jot it down on the form on the clip board on the table in the Narthex and the Property Committee will look into fixing it.
