

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✕ September 9, 2018**

PRELUDE – "SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER" – LUCY ANN WARRINER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME TO AN OLD-TIME HYMN SING

A hymn or song of praise reminds us of who God is and what he has promised us. It fuels our faith – a foundation we can stand upon throughout our lives. It weaves our lives together as believers and connects us with the church's history and the cloud of witnesses who have gone before us.

**HYMN #656 – "BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS"**

**HYMN #838 – "BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR"**

**HYMN #860 – "I'M SO GLAD JESUS LIFTED ME"**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and LORD. **Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 35:4-7A**

**PSALM 146** *Sung responsively* **Tone 1**



<sup>1</sup>Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

<sup>3</sup>Put not your | trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there | is no help.

<sup>4</sup>When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,  
and in that day | their thoughts perish.

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,  
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;  
who keeps promis- | es forever;

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who  
hunger.

The LORD sets the | captive free.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those  
who | are bowed down;

the LORD | loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares | for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the  
way | of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD shall | reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

**SECOND LESSON: JAMES 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17**

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 7:24-37**

The Gospel of the LORD.



**HYMN #396 – “SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS”**

**HYMN #856 – “HOW GREAT THOU ART”**

**HYMN #503 – “A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD”**

**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 – “JESUS PAID IT ALL” – JOHN GRAPE**

*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.**

**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**

**HYMN #623 – “ROCK OF AGES”**

**HYMN #661 – “I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY”**

**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.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Sound the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE- “POSTLUDE”- FRANZ JOSEF HAYDN**

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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

**ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....**

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

**ISAIAH 35:4-7a:** These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

**JAMES 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17:** Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

**MARK 7:24-37:** In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

**PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 16:** Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. (See Isaiah 35:4)

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** Your power heals those who trust in you, O God. Draw near and heal those who cry to you. 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, Hattie Smith, Irmi, 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**

**LEADER** Amy Ortwein  
**ORGANIST** Dr. Jennifer Dodd  
**GREETER** Diane Wirth  
**ASSISTING MINISTER** Amy Ortwein  
**LECTOR/CANTOR** Gwen Gibiser  
**USHERS** Joyce Fulford,  
Susan Clemens-Bruder  
**CHURCH COUNCIL REP** Ron Fried  
**ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY** Roger & Gloria Knappenberger

**Pastor Jim will be on vacation through September 14<sup>th</sup>. 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:** 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal.  
10:30 AM Worship.  
**MON.:** 7:00 PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING.  
**WED.:** 9 AM Quilting.  
**SAT:** 10 AM – 5 PM Coopersburg Community Day.  
**NEXT SUN.:** 9 AM Choir Rehearsal. If you like to sing, please come join us. New members welcome.  
10:30 AM WORSHIP.  
11:30 AM Yard Sale Committee Meeting immediately following Worship.

COMING EVENTS - mark your calendar!

**SEPT. 10 - 7:00 PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING.**  
**SEPT. 15 - COOPERSBURG COMMUNITY DAY.**  
**SEPT. 16 - YARD SALE COMMITTEE MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP.**  
**SEPT. 23 - RALLY DAY AT BLUE CHURCH.**  
**SEPT. 30 - NEW MEMBER CLASSES (See Pastor Jim)**  
**OCTOBER - BLUE CHURCH YARD SALE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup> AT LOWER MILFORD TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY, LIMEPORT.**

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

**ALTAR FLOWERS...**by Irene Frederick in honor of Lillian Frey's 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday.

**BULLETINS...**by Lillian Frey in honor of her Birthday.

**SANCTUARY LAMP...**by Bill and Kathy Exner in memory of Loved Ones.

**COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...**by Joyce Fulford

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

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

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**THE DATE HAS BEEN SET!! BLUE CHURCH WILL HAVE A YARD SALE ON OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>. Mark your calendar. It's not too early to start saving all your unwanted "treasures" for this event. No clothing please.**

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

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**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.

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A Restaurant Fundraiser will be held at Bella Ristorante, 639 Main St., Hellertown on September 18, 19, and 20 from 11 AM to 9:30 PM. A percentage of your dining check will be generously donated to COB!!

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## FIRST LESSON

### Isaiah 35:4-7a

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,\*  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.