

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 29, 2021

PRELUDE – “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

– Marvin Gaspard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

God our provider,
help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

HYMN #532 GATHER US IN

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

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 *Spoken responsively*

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 upon 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 against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND LESSON:

JAMES 1:17-27

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

Glory 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.

THE SERMON

HYMN #772

OH, THAT THE LORD WOULD GUIDE MY WAYS

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...Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #881 LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE” – DANIEL GAWTHROP

✠ ✠ ✠

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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.... THE 14th 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 14: 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.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR... Cyndie Cline, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Bob Gibiser, Ann Greensweig, Andrea Incacaterra, Frank Kelly, Robin King, Beverly Lerch, Peter Link, Carl Ritter, Candice Robinson, Jerry Smith, Dick Storat, Sue Storat, Kathy, Connie, Stephen.

Other concerns: The family and friends of John Blackwood

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
GREETER	Joyce Fulford
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Roger Knappenberger

THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER IS BLUE CHURCH'S MONTH TO STAFF BETTY LOU'S PANTRY. Volunteers are needed for Saturday September 11th, and September 25th. We need 3 more people for September 11th, (if possible one person who can lift boxes). We need 6 people for September 25th (if possible 2 people who can lift). The time is from 8:30 AM to about 10:30/11 AM. We are still not having patrons come inside, so there is no close contact as before). There is a sign up on the blackboard in Fellowship Hall. Contact Deb Stover at 484-437-3831 if you can help.

BLUE CHURCH GARDEN OF GIVING is overflowing with fresh produce (lots of tomatoes, zucchini, eggplant, etc. Check it out and take what you can use. Simply give a donation marked “Garden of Giving” and it will be forwarded to Betty Lou's Food Pantry.

The construction on the Church tower will begin at the end of August. More details will follow.

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)

LOOKING AHEAD

SEPTEMBER 5 – 9:30 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Hall is air-conditioned for the summer Worship services. The Services will continue in Fellowship Hall through the month of September.

PLEASE NOTE - Beginning September 12, the services will change back to the 10:30 AM Worship time.

SEPT. 12 – 10:30 AM Worship and Picnic at Upper Saucon Township Park. NOTE CHANGE...Due to the current changing situation with the virus, we are now asking you to bring your own picnic lunch for after worship.

Stewardship Snippet

Aug. 29, 2021 (14th Sunday after Pentecost)
James 1:17 – Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.

Make a list of the blessings in your life. Go ahead! These are gifts to you from God, the source of all. Now review the list and pray for each, “I thank God for” Do this every day and see how you feel

LESSONS

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 – 1ST Lesson

4 So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. ⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

9 But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children—

James 1:17-27 – 2ND Lesson

17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.* ¹⁸In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves* in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, ongoing away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 - Gospel

7Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands,^{*} thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it;^{*} and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.^{*}) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live^{*} according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' ⁶He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

⁷ in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines."

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.'^{*} ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✠ 13th Sunday after Pentecost ✠
August 29, 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: We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy,

"Hear our prayer."

A: We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

"Hear our prayer."

A: We pray for individuals in positions of authority. Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy,

"Hear our prayer."

A: We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Today we pray especially for: Cyndie, Sandra, Bill, Bob, Ann, Andrea, Frank, Robin, Beverly, Peter, Carl, Candice, Jerry, Dick, Sue, Kathy, Connie, Stephen, the family and friends of John Blackwood, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

"Hear our prayer."

A: We pray for Blue Church, especially those beginning a new school year. Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. Lord, in your mercy,

“Hear our prayer.”

A: We give thanks for the faithful departed who showed us how to honor God with our heart. Inspire us by their example and renew our faith, trusting that we will be united with them in glory. 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.