

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – August 8, 2021

PRELUDE – “Be Thou My Vision” – Daniel Burton

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 #658 O JESUS, JOY OF LOVING HEARTS

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....Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

1 KINGS 19:4-8

PSALM 34:1-8 *Spoken responsively*

¹I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

²**I will glory in the LORD;**

let the lowly hear and rejoice.

³Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt God's name together.

⁴**I sought the LORD, who answered me
and delivered me from all my terrors.**

⁵Look upon the LORD and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

⁶**I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.**

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD
and delivers them.

⁸**Taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!**

SECOND LESSON:

EPHESIANS 4:25–5:2

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 6:35, 41-51

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #542 O LIVING BREAD OF HEAVEN

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 11: Lord, let me say only what builds up another. (See Ephesians 4:29)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Loving Father, you have called us to live in the love of Christ. May the bread of life strengthen us to give our lives for the good of others. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Cyndie Cline, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, 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:

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	Maggie Fried
LECTOR	Karen Kelly
GREETERS	John & Marcy Sumoski
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Marcy Sumoski

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

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

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

BLUE CHURCH GARDEN OF GIVING is really coming alive with fresh produce (tomatoes, beans, zucchini, eggplant, etc. Check it out and take what you can use. Also check the refrigerator in the church kitchen for produce. Simply give a donation marked "Garden of Giving" and it will be forwarded to Betty Lou's Food Pantry.

LOOKING AHEAD

AUGUST 9 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

AUGUST 15 – 9:30 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall.
The Fellowship Hall is air-conditioned for the summer Worship services.

SEPT. 12 – 10:30 AM Worship and Picnic at Upper Saucon Township Park. ***Sides and deserts are requested for the picnic. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside of Fellowship Hall for you to sign up.***

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

Tuna Helper Chunky Soups Baked Beans Kidney Beans

Other things always needed:

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

HAPPENING THIS WEEK...

AUGUST 10 – LAWRENCE, DEACON, MARTYR, DIED 258

Lawrence was one of seven deacons of the congregation at Rome and, like the deacons appointed in Acts, was responsible for financial matters in the church and for the care of the poor. Lawrence lived during a time of persecution under the emperor Valerian. The emperor demanded that Lawrence surrender the treasures of the church. Lawrence gathered lepers, orphans, the blind and lame. He brought them to the emperor and said, "Here is the treasure of the church." This act enraged the emperor, and Lawrence was sentenced to death. Lawrence's martyrdom was one of the first to be observed by the church.

AUGUST 13 – FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, DIED 1910; CLARA MAASS, DIED 1901; RENEWERS OF SOCIETY

When Florence Nightingale decided she would be a nurse, her family was horrified. In the early 1800s nursing was done by people with no training and no other way to earn a living. Florence trained at Kaiserswerth, Germany, with a Lutheran order of deaconesses. She returned home and worked to reform hospitals in England. Nightingale led a group of thirty-eight nurses to serve in the Crimean War, where they worked in appalling conditions. She returned to London as a hero and resumed her work there for hospital reform.

Clare Maass was born in New Jersey and served as a nurse in the Spanish-American War, where she encountered the horrors of yellow fever. She later responded to a call for subjects in research on yellow fever. During the experiments, which included receiving bites from mosquitoes, she contracted the disease and died. The commemoration of these women invites the church to give thanks for all who practice the arts of healing.

LESSONS

1 Kings 19:4-8 – 1 Lesson

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' ⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' ⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' ⁸He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 – 2nd Lesson

25 So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up,^{*} as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and

be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.^{*} ⁵¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us^{*} and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

John 6:35, 41-51 - Gospel

35 Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

41 Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' ⁴²They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' ⁴³Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✕ 11th Sunday after Pentecost ✕
August 8, 2021

A: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation, responding,

“hear our prayer.”

A brief silence

A: For the church of Christ in all its diverse forms. For mission developers, new mission starts, and all communities of faith exploring new models of ministry for the sake of the gospel. For congregations facing difficult decisions about their future. God, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: For the health and well-being of creation. For shade trees that provide refuge from the hot summer sun. For lakes, rivers, and oceans contaminated by pollution and all who lack clean water. God, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: For those called to positions of authority in our legal system, we pray. For judges, lawyers, law clerks, and court employees who ensure the fair administration of justice. For corrections officers and prison chaplains, that they would deal mercifully with those who are incarcerated. God, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: For all who cry out to you in their affliction. For exiles, refugees, and others who face long and difficult journeys, uncertain about the future. For all who mourn the death of a loved one. For all who are sick. Today we pray especially for: Cyndie, Sandra, Bill, Ann, Andrea, Frank, Robin, Beverly, Peter, Carl, Candice, Jerry, Dick, Sue, Kathy, Connie, Stephen, and everyone who has

asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. God, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: For Blue Church gathered around your table, we pray. For those among us who bake bread and prepare the vessels for our communion celebration. For those who bring the food from this table to those who are homebound or hospitalized. God, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: For those who have been raised to eternal life, we give thanks. With all the saints we praise you for the bread of life that keeps us in your love forever. God, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

Pastor: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.