

# 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](mailto:jjtrev1@verizon.net)  
Blue Church Cemetery – 484-201-5048 or 484-375-5875;  
e-mail: bluechurchcemetery@gmail.com

**First Sunday of Christmas ✕ December 26, 2021**

**PRELUDE – “GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN”**

**– ROBERT THYGERSON  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✕ one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth. **Amen**

In Christ we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination*

Holy God,

**we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

I bring you good news of joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ✕ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**

**HYMN #277**

**AWAY IN A MANGER**

## 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

Let us pray...Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON:**

**1 SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26**

## PSALM 148

*Spoken responsively*

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

**<sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

**<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.**

**<sup>4</sup>Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

**<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,**

**<sup>6</sup>who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

**<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;**

**<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

**<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;**

**<sup>10</sup>wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**

**<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;**

**<sup>12</sup>young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**

**<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and  
heaven.**

**<sup>14</sup>The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for  
all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.  
Hallelujah!**

**SECOND LESSON:**

**COLOSSIANS 3:12-17**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL:**

**LUKE 2:41-52**

P: The Gospel of the LORD.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### ANTHEM – “I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY”

### HYMN #300 *THE FIRST NOEL*

## 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: “receive our prayer.”*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*The pastor offers the prayer. The congregation joins in praying the LORD’s 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... We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us,  
in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love,  
strengthen us to share your love with all the world. **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we  
may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ  
Jesus, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

### HYMN #288 *“GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS REJOICE!”*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE



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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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**First Sunday of Christmas:** *On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God, who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.*

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

**I SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26:** Having dedicated her son Samuel to God’s service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the Lord’s house to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

**COLOSSIANS 3:12-17:** Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God’s gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

**LUKE 2:41-52:** Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

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**PRAYER FOR THE DAY:** Clothe us with the compassion of Christ.  
*(Colossians 3:12)*

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** God our Father, you bless the world in Christ, the newborn Son. Plant the seed of your word in our hearts that we may grow in grace and wisdom. Amen.

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**BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...** Marie Berghold, Cyndi Cline, Sandra Denora, Irene Frederick, Gwen Gibiser, Ann Greensweig, Ray Hammond, Anita Johnson, Frank Kelly, Glenn Weil, Larry Wempe, Kathy Zeby, Stephen, Brian, Ingrid

**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>	Amy Ortwein
<b>LECTOR</b>	Amy Ortwein
<b>GREETER</b>	Diane Wirth
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL REP</b>	John Sumoski

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**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:**  
**ALTAR FLOWERS.....**by Shirley Hildebrand in honor of mother Mary Weil’s Birthday.  
**SANCTUARY LAMP...**by Joyce Fulford  
**COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...**by Joyce Fulford

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

**WED. & THURS., DEC. 29 & 30 – 9 AM Work Day in the Narthex.**

**SUN. JAN. 2 – 10:30 AM Worship - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas.**

**TUES. JAN. 6 – Epiphany of Our Lord.**

**MON. JAN. 10 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.**

**SUN. JAN. 23 – 10:30 AM – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. Please plan to attend.**

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**ELCA Good Gifts** provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts, starting at just \$10, provide direct support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

Simply take an ornament from the Advent Tree in the Narthex. Make your check payable to Blue Church and deposit in the offering plate or mail to the church.

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**CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.** Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this important part of the life of Blue Church. Speak to Pastor Jim, Ron Fried, Deb Stover, or any other Council members.

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**ONE OF THE STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS IN THE SANCTUARY IS IN NEED OF URGENT REPAIR.** More information will be forthcoming in this necessary project.

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**A “WORK DAY” IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> AND THURSDAY DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:00 AM TO SCRAPE THE BUBBLY PAINT OFF THE NARTHEX TO GET IT READY TO BE REPAINTED.** No tools are required but a good mask is (N-95). Talk to John Sumoski or Roger Knappenberger for more information on this project.

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**AFTER NEW YEAR A WORK PARTY WILL BE SCHEDULED TO POLISH THE BRASS IN THE CHURCH.**

Dates and times will be announced.

## **LESSONS**

### **1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

18 Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the LORD repay\* you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to\* the LORD'; and then they would return to their home.

26 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

### **Colossians 3:12-17 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord\* has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ\* dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.\* <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **Luke 2:41-52 - Gospel**

41 Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents\* saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' <sup>49</sup>He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?\*' <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years,\* and in divine and human favor.

**St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church**  
**Prayers ✘ First Sunday of Christmas ✘**  
**December 26, 2021**

A: Joining our voices with the song of the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, responding,

**“receive our prayer.”**

*A brief silence*

A: You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God,

**“receive our prayer.”**

*A brief silence*

A: You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God,

**“receive our prayer.”**

A: You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God,

**“receive our prayer.”**

A: You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day. Today we pray especially for: Marie, Cyndi, Sandra, Irene, Gwen, Ann, Ray, Anita, Frank, Larry, Stephen, Glenn, Kathy, Brian, Ingrid, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Merciful God,

**“receive our prayer.”**

A: You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God,

**“receive our prayer.”**

A: You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever. We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of our love. Merciful God,

**“receive our prayer.”**

**Pastor: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

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