

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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Third Sunday after Epiphany ✠ January 24, 2021

**PRELUDE – “LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED” – DAVID
PAXTON**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

Holy God,
you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✠ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #818 *“O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH YOU”*

GREETING

The boundless grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

JONAH 3:1-5, 10

PSALM 62:5-12

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath;
those of low estate cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

MARK 1:14-20

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #696 *JESUS CALLS US, O'ER THE TUMULT*

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

EUCHARISTIC 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**

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

A: Let us pray...Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your
very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from
this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good
news and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

God the creator strengthens you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the
Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #867 IN THEE IS GLADNESS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE” – DANIEL BURTON

☩ ☩ ☩

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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

THIS DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR: EPIPHANY 3

*Stories of the call to discipleship continue as the Time after Epiphany
plays out the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the
world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to
repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a
similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very
outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of fisherman brothers
leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to
follow Jesus and fish for people.*

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS....

JONAH 3:1-5, 10: *The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a
reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will
be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah’s dismay, the people of
Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle
with the question “On whom should God have mercy?”*

1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31: *Paul does not disapprove of
marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want
Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God’s future,
which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of
Jesus Christ.*

MARK 1:14-20: *Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

THE CHARTS TO SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS, BULLETINS, SANTUARY CANDLE AND WINE FOR 2021 ARE NOW ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS IN THE NARTHEX. Please check the appropriate charts.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR... Bill Exner, Lillian Frey, Maggie Fried, Ron Fried, Ann Greensweig, Shirley Hildebrand, Walt Lehr, Jerry Smith, Hattie Smith, Bob Storat, Sue Storat, Dean Stover

Other concerns: Kevin Jones, deployment; Todd and Dottie.
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.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD...
ALTAR FLOWERS... in honor of Janet Hammond and Kathy Exner’s Birthdays.
COMMUNION BREAD... by Warren and Lois Adams.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

CELEBRANT The Rev. James Hammond
ORGANIST Dr. Jennifer Dodd
ASSISTING MINISTER Amy Ortwein
LECTOR Amy Ortwein
GREETERS Roger & Edie Knapenberger
CHURCH COUNCIL REP Amy Ortwein

PLEASE NOTE – The annual Congregational Meeting will be held today. The Budget Meeting will take place at 10:00 AM with Worship at 10:30 AM. All other Committee Reports will be reviewed and voted on immediately following Worship.

LOOKING AHEAD

MONDAY, FEB. 1 – 7 – 8 PM – Girl Scouts Mtg.
SUNDAY, FEB. 7 – 10:30 AM Worship/Scout Sunday.
MONDAY, FEB. 8 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

THE ANNUAL COAT DRIVE - Blue Church is collecting gently used coats for the winter season to help those who can use them. You can bring in coats and drop them in the bin in the narthex. Many thanks to all those who have already donated coats.

BLUE CHURCH NOTES
IN-PERSON WORSHIP

- Masks must be worn at all times properly covering one’s nose and mouth.
- There will be no formal collection of offering or passing of the peace. Receptacles will be provided in the narthex area for worshippers to deposit their offering envelopes (which may also be mailed in to the church office).
- In order to provide a sanitary and safe Holy Communion experience we are using pre-filled Communion chalices.
- **PLEASE NOTE –** *If you would like to help defray the extra expense of the Communion cups you can use your Communion envelope in your box of offering envelopes or a plain envelope marked “Communion” with your name.*

WE ARE STILL COLLECTING DETERGENT DONATIONS FOR BETTY LOU’S FOOD PANTRY. They can be left at the side entrance to the church (red door) and someone will put them inside. Thanks again for being so generous with all your donations and volunteering to help those in need in our community!

BLUE CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
RECEIPTS	\$12,529.38	\$133,436.00
EXPENSES	\$16,642.77	\$ 145,574.37
<u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>	<u>(\$ 4,113.39)</u>	<u>(\$ 12,138.37)</u>

ENDOWMENT FUND WITHDRAWN TO COVER EXPENSES
\$0.00 \$20,500.00

ENDOWMENT FUND INTEREST/REFUND -
\$0 \$ 5,686.89

LESSONS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 – 1st Lesson

3The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 – 2nd Lesson

²⁹I mean, brothers and sisters,* the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who

buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Mark 1:14-20 - Gospel

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news* of God,* ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;* repent, and believe in the good news.'*

16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✕ The Third Sunday after Epiphany ✕
January 24, 2021

A: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need responding,

“Have mercy, O God.”

A brief silence

A: For the church throughout the world, for pastors and teachers, for deacons and deaconesses, and for musicians and servers, that all proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love, let us pray.

“Have mercy, O God.”

A brief silence

A: For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth, let us pray.

“Have mercy, O God.”

A: For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world, for nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, for planning commissions and homeless advocates, that God inspire all people in the just use of wealth, let us pray.

“Have mercy, O God.”

A: For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief, that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them. Today we pray especially for: Bill, Lillian, Maggie, Ron, Ann, Shirley, Walt, Jerry, Hattie, Bob, Sue, Dean, Kevin, Todd, Dottie, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Let us pray.

“Have mercy, O God.”

A: For Blue Church and community, for families big and small, and for the organizations that meet here during the week, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships, let us pray.

“Have mercy, O God.”

A: In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ, let us pray.

“Have mercy, O God.”

Pastor: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK....

JANUARY 26 – TIMOTHY, TITUS, AND SILAS, MISSIONARIES

On the two days following the celebration of the Conversion of Paul, his companions are remembered. Timothy, Titus, and Silas were missionary coworkers with Paul. Timothy accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey and was commissioned by Paul to go to Ephesus, where he served as bishop and overseer of the church. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, accompanied him on the trip to the council of Jerusalem, and became the first bishop of Crete. Silas traveled with Paul through Asia Minor and Greece and was imprisoned with him at Philippi, where they were delivered by an earthquake.

JANUARY 27 – LYDIA, DORCAS, AND PHOEBE, WITNESSES TO THE FAITH

On this day the church remembers three women who were companions in Paul's ministry. Lydia was Paul's first convert at Philippi in Macedonia. She was a merchant of purple-dyed goods, and because purple dye was extremely expensive, it is likely that Lydia was a woman of some wealth. Lydia and her household were baptized by Paul, and for a time her home was a base for Paul's missionary work. Dorcas is remembered for her charitable works particularly making clothing for needy widows. Phoebe was a *diakonos*, a deaconess in the church at Cenchreae, near Corinth. Paul praises her as one who, through her service, looked after many people.

JANUARY 28 – THOMAS AQUINAS, TEACHER, DIED 1274

Thomas Aquinas was a brilliant and creative theologian of the thirteenth century. He was first and foremost a student of the Bible and profoundly concerned with the theological formation of the church's ordained ministers. As a member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he worked to correlate scripture with the philosophy of Aristotle, which was having a renaissance in Aquinas's day. Some students of Aristotle's philosophy found in it an alternative to Christianity. But Aquinas immersed himself in the thought of Aristotle and worked to explain Christian beliefs in the philosophical culture of the day.

