

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

5900 Applebutter Hill Rd. Coopersburg, Pa 18036

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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

***The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – July 4, 2021***

**PRELUDE – “Fanfare on ‘My Country ‘Tis of Thee’” –  
Murray Bradshaw**

## **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 #891    *GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND***

### **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...God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of our kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON:**

**EZEKIEL 2:1-5**

**PSALM 123    *Spoken responsively***

<sup>1</sup>To you I lift up my eyes,  
to you enthroned in the heavens.

<sup>2</sup>**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,  
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God,  
until you show us your mercy.**

<sup>3</sup>Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

<sup>4</sup>**too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,  
and of the derision of the proud.**

**SECOND LESSON:**

**2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL:**

**MARK 6:1-13**

The Gospel of the LORD.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **THE SERMON**

**HYMN #396**

***SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS***

### **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 #888**      *O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES*

#### **DISMISSAL**

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

### **POSTLUDE – “A PATRIOTIC QUOTATION” ROBERT HUGHES**

✠                      ✠                      ✠

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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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### **THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR....THE 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

*Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the between: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.*

**EZEKIEL 2:1-5:** *In 597 B.C., the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today’s reading recounts God’s commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God’s word to a people unwilling to hear.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10:** *Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ’s grace is sufficient for us.*

**MARK 6:1-13:** *At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God’s word and relieve affliction.*

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**PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 6:** My grace is sufficient for you. 2  
*Corinthians 12:9*

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** Gracious Lord, you heal the wounded and cast out evil. Strengthen us in the grace of baptism so that we may comfort the sick and struggle against all forms of evil in our world. Amen.

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**BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...**Cliff Benner, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Dr. Roger Fischer, Ann Greensweig, Andrea Incacatterra, Frank Kelly, Peter Link, Carl Ritter, Jerry Smith, Sue Storat, 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.*

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**LEADING OUR WORSHIP**

**CELEBRANT** The Rev. James Hammond  
**ORGANIST** Dr. Jennifer Dodd  
**ASSISTING MINISTER** Dick Storat  
**LECTOR** Dick Storat  
**GREETERS**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL REP** Roger Knappenberger

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**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:  
MONTHLY COMMUNION WINE SPONSOR...**by Warren and Lois Adams.

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**PLEASE PASS IT ON...**Pastor Jim is now available to make home visits for those wishing Holy Communion. He has had both his shots but the proper Covid precautions will still be needed (mask wearing). Please call the church office (610-965-9500) to set up an appointment for the visit. Please leave a message and we will get back to you.

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

**JULY 11 – 9:30 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall.**  
**The Fellowship Hall is air-conditioned for the summer Worship services.**

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**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)

**Also looking ahead at the Pantry to the Boy Scout Food Drive and where we are going to store the food.** If we go back to letting our patrons shop in the pantry, we will have the room to store most if not all the scout food donations at the pantry. Please let me know if you and your church volunteers will return to working in the basement and in the back of the church if we require everyone to wear masks, including patrons and volunteers. Obviously, this all depends on how things look in the fall. I need to start reviewing our options now though to be prepared.

Thanks for your help.

Chris Page 610-360-2730; or talk to Deb Stover, 484-437-3831 if you will still be willing to help.

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**So Le Hi Kid Care** in Coopersburg is seeking reliable and flexible individuals who have experience with children for year round permanent part time positions.

Lead teacher position for the kindergarten enrichment program and before/after school positions are available. The lead teacher position requires an Associate's degree. The before/after school position requires a high school diploma.

Please contact Linda Kolumber for more information. 610-282-2373 or

[solehikidcare@gmail.com](mailto:solehikidcare@gmail.com)

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## LESSONS

### **Ezekiel 2:1-5 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

**2** He said to me: O mortal,\* stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. <sup>2</sup>And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation\* of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup>The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' <sup>5</sup>Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

### **2 Corinthians 12:2-10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

<sup>2</sup>I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— <sup>4</sup>was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of such

a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, <sup>7</sup>even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep\* me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated.\* <sup>8</sup>Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, <sup>9</sup>but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power\* is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

### **Mark 6:1-13 - Gospel**

**6** He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary\* and brother of James

and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?’ And they took offence\* at him. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to them, ‘Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.’ <sup>5</sup>And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. <sup>6</sup>And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup>He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup>He said to them, ‘Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup>If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.’ <sup>12</sup>So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. <sup>13</sup>They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

**St. Paul’s Lutheran “Blue” Church**  
**Prayers ✠ 6th Sunday after Pentecost ✠**  
**July, 2021**

A: Let us come before the triune God in prayer, responding,

**“hear our prayer.”**

*A brief silence*

A: God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

**“hear our prayer.”**

A: God of the heavens, your creating Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the Milky Way Galaxy, and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us. Lord, in your mercy,

**“hear our prayer.”**

A: God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression. Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption. Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy,

**“hear our prayer.”**

A: God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need. Today we pray especially for: Clifford, Sandra, Bill, Roger, Ann, Andrea, Frank, Peter, Carl, Jerry, Sue, Stephen, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

**“hear our prayer.”**

A: God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for our outreach ministries. Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**“hear our prayer.”**

A: We give thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets who move us towards freedom. Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers ,and all who strive for liberty for all. Lord, in your mercy,

**“hear our prayer.”**

**Pastor: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. Amen.**