

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

Blue Church Cemetery – 484-201-5048 or 484-375-5875;

e-mail: bluechurchcemetery@gmail.com

Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 9, 2021

PRELUDE - "COME DOWN, O LOVE DEVINE" – LYNDELL

LEATHERMAN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism

P: We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

P: We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

P: Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

P: Make us one, risen Christ. Cleans our hearts. Shower us with life.

P: To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN #367 NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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...O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son, and our LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

ACTS 10:44-48

PSALM 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

SECOND LESSON:

1 JOHN 5:1-6

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

JOHN 15:9-17

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #708 JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE

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: Your mercy in great.

EUCCHARISTIC 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...Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #836 *JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE*

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE – “RISE UP BEFORE HIS THRONE” – MATTHEW MCCONNELL

✠ ✠ ✠

Liturgical music reprinted from **Lutheran Book of Worship**, © 1978. Used by permission of Augsburg-Fortress, license #15175-L. All rights reserved. Psalm 98 is reprinted from *Psalter for Worship Year B* copyright 2008 Augsburg Fortress. Copying of any music in this bulletin prohibited without written 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

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR....SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

This Sunday’s image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John’s gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

ACTS 10:44-48: *While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

1 JOHN 5:1-6: *God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

JOHN 15:9-17: *On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

PRAYER FOR 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER: I have chosen you to bear fruit that will last. (See John 15:16)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Risen LORD, you call us your friends. Strengthen us in the bonds of friendship and help us serve the stranger in need. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Cliff Benner, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Dr. Roger Fischer, Ann Greensweig, Carly Hampton, Andrea Incacaterra, Walt Lehr, Peter Link, Ken Ortwein, Jerry Smith, Sue Storat, Stephen, The family and friends of Larry Angney Sr, and The family and friends of Joan Derr

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	Dick Storat
LECTOR	Dick Storat
GREETER	
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Paula Clark

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS...by Greg & Wendy Storat in honor of Mother's Day.

COMMUNION WINE & BREAD...by Greg & Wendy Storat

LOOKING AHEAD

MON. MAY 10 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

THURS. – 6:30 – 7:30 PM Cub Pack #364 Meeting.

SUN. MAY 16 – 10:30 AM WORSHIP – 7TH Sunday of Easter

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.

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Make me a wise mother, O Lord. Keep me calm and give me patience to bear the small, irritating things in the daily routine of life. Give me tolerance and understanding to bridge the gulf between my generation and that of my children.

Let me not be too ready to guide my children's stumbling feet, but allow me to be ever near to bind their bruises. Give me a sense of humor that I may laugh with them but never at them. Let me refrain from preaching with words; let me show by example instead.

Keep me from forcing their confidences, but give me a sympathetic ear when my children come to me. Make me humble. Keep my children close to me, O Lord, though miles may separate us. And let Thy light so shine upon me that they, too, will perceive Thy glory. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPETS

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 9, 2021 "I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."—John 5:17

Commandments and instruction are necessary parts of growing into adulthood and growing in the faith. While we may chafe at such stewardship, we realize that they are given in love for our good. We can give thanks to our ancestors for passing on the faith and teaching us God's commandments

LESSONS

Acts 10:44-48 – 1st Lesson

44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

1 John 5:1-6 – 2nd Lesson

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ* has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that

conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6 This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

John 15:9-17 - Gospel

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants* any longer, because the servant* does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✘ Sixth Sunday of Easter ✘
May 9, 2021

A: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love, responding,
"Your mercy is great."

A brief silence

A: Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter. Hear us, O God.
"Your mercy is great."

A: Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God.
"Your mercy is great."

A: Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.
"Your mercy is great."

A: Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering. Be with the dying. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Today we pray especially for: Clifford, Sandra, Bill,

Roger, Ann, Carly, Andrea, Walt, Peter, Ken, Jerry, Sue, Stephen, the family and friends of Larry Angney, Sr., the family and friends of Joan Derr, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God.
"Your mercy is great."

Pastor: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.