

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 19, 2021**

## PRELUDE – “Chant du Matin” – Gustav Merkel ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence for reflection*

God our comforter,  
**like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

**HYMN #853 WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES**

### 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...O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

JEREMIAH 11:18-20

### PSALM 54 *Spoken responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, by your name;  
in your might, defend my cause.

<sup>2</sup>**Hear my prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.**

<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,  
those who have no regard for God.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, God is my helper;  
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who spy on me;  
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

<sup>6</sup>**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice  
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from every trouble,  
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

SECOND LESSON:

JAMES 3:13–4:3, 7-8A

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

MARK 9:30-37

The Gospel of the LORD.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

HYMN #781

*CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER*

### 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.*

## 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,**

## BLESSING

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

## BENEDICTION

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering  
world. The holy Trinity, ☩ one God, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## HYMN #659 *WILL YOU LET ME BE YOUR SERVANT*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE – "TRUMPET TUNE" – TOMASO ALBINONI

☩                      ☩                      ☩

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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 17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

*Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the  
disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells  
them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts  
in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to  
welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room  
for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the  
assembly.*

**JEREMIAH 11:18-20:** *Today's reading tells of the suffering of the  
prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met  
with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in  
God in the midst of his suffering.*

**JAMES 3:13—4:3, 7-8A:** *The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and  
minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we  
manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality  
toward others.*

**MARK 8:30-37:** *Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to  
the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of  
greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such  
a concern for greatness is servanthood.*

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**PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 18:** *Wisdom is full of mercy. (James 3:17)*

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** *LORD Jesus, give us the wisdom to  
recognize your presence, in the stranger, the friend, the outcast.  
Amen.*

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**BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...** *Cyndie Cline, Sandra Denora, Bill  
Exner, Bob Gibiser, Ann Greensweig, Frank Kelly, Robin King,  
Beverly Lerch, Candice Robinson, 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.*

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### LEADING OUR WORSHIP

**PRESIDER** Amy Ortwein  
**ORGANIST** Dr. Jennifer Dodd  
**ASSISTING MINISTER** Ron Fried  
**LECTOR** Karen Kelly  
**GREETERS**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL REP**

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**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:  
ALTAR FLOWERS...**by Shirley Hildebrand in memory of Dad Alvin Weil's Birthday.  
**BULLETINS...**by Dean and Deb Stover in honor of their 48<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.  
**COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...**by Wendy and Greg Storat

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**THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER IS BLUE CHURCH'S MONTH TO STAFF BETTY LOU'S PANTRY.** Volunteers are needed for Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup>. We need 6 people (if possible 2 people who can lift). The time is from 8:30 AM to about 10:30/11 AM. We are still not having patrons come inside, so there is no close contact as before). There is a sign up on the blackboard in Fellowship Hall. Contact Deb Stover at 484-437-3831 if you can help.

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**BLUE CHURCH GARDEN OF GIVING** still has some tomatoes. Check it out and take what you can use. Simply give a donation marked "Garden of Giving" and it will be forwarded to Betty Lou's Food Pantry.

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**The construction on the Church tower has begun. It will take a few weeks to complete.**

### LOOKING AHEAD

***SEPTEMBER 26 - 10:30 AM* Worship in the Fellowship Hall. Next Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Worship in the Sanctuary.**

***OCTOBER 3 - 9:00 AM* Choir Rehearsal resumes. If you enjoy singing, please join us at this time. New members are always welcome.**

***OCTOBER 3 - 10:30 AM* Worship in the Sanctuary.**

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

Tuna Helper Chunky Soups Canned Pasta Boxed Potatoes  
Other things always needed:

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

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**THINKING AHEAD OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR OUR PANTRY FAMILIES.** In view of the still unstable virus spread, we will again forego physical presents and give gift cards so parents can purchase gifts for the children. Donations can be put in the collection plate on Sundays or sent to the church by mail. Please make checks out to BLUE CHURCH so one check can be sent to Betty Lou's Pantry. Just please remember to put in the memo line that your donation is for BLP Christmas gift cards. Please have donations in by November 14<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for all your help!

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***PASTOR JIM AND JANET will be temporarily away from September 13<sup>th</sup> through September 25<sup>th</sup>. In case of an emergency needing pastoral care, please contact Kathy Exner (610) 965-4020. She will get you in touch with someone on call to address your needs.***

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### BLUE CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
RECEIPTS	\$ 8,375.32	\$89,125.06
EXPENSES	\$11,119.91	\$99,014.00
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ (2,744.59)	\$ (9,888.94)

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**ENDOWMENT FUND WITHDRAWN TO COVER EXPENSES**

\$0 \$0

**EMDOWMENT FUND INTEREST/REFUND \$0**

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## LESSONS

### **Jeremiah 11:18-20 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

<sup>18</sup> It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.  
<sup>19</sup> But I was like a gentle lamb  
led to the slaughter.  
And I did not know it was against me  
that they devised schemes, saying,  
'Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered!'  
<sup>20</sup> But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,  
who try the heart and the mind,  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

### **James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for\* those who make peace.

<sup>4</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet\* something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

<sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

### **Mark 9:30-37 - Gospel**

<sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.'  
<sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.'  
<sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

**St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church**  
**Prayers ✕ 17th Sunday after Pentecost ✕**  
**September 19, 2021**

A: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need, responding,  
**"hear our prayer."**

*A brief silence*

A: God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy,  
**"hear our prayer."**

A: God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy,  
**"hear our prayer."**

A: God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy,  
**"hear our prayer."**

A: God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Today we pray especially for: Cyndie, Sandra, Bill, Bob, Ann, Frank, Robin, Beverly, Candice, Sue, Kathy, Connie, 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 compassion, we pray for the young people of Blue Church. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy,  
**"hear our prayer."**

A: God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy,  
**"hear our prayer."**

**Pastor: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**