

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

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 26, 2021

PRELUDE – “Andantino in A Minor” – Louis Lefebure-Wely

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 #636 *HOW SMALL OUR SPAN OF LIFE*

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...Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

NUMBERS 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

PSALM 19:7-14 *Spoken responsively*

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

SECOND LESSON:

JAMES 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

MARK 9:38-50

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #712 *LORD, WHOSE LOVE IN HUMBLE SERVICE*

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.

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,**

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...Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 #673 GOD, WHOSE ALMIGHTY WORD

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — "SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE!" — LANI SMITH

✠ ✠ ✠

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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

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR....THE 18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

Someone is casting our demons in Jesus' name who isn't part of Jesus' own circle, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.

NUMBERS 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29: *What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?*

JAMES 5:13-20: *Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.*

MARK 9:38-50: *On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involved service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.*

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 19: Lord, let us be at peace with one another. (*Mark 9:50*)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Jesus, teacher of your people, may we never be an obstacle to the faith of others. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Cyndie Cline, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Bob Gibiser, Ann Greensweig, Frank Kelly, Robin King, Beverly Lerch, Sue Storat, Kathy, Connie, Stephen.

Other concerns: The family and friends of Candice Robinson
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
GREETERS	Ron & Carol Stoudt
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Paula Clark

**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:
COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...**by Wendy and Greg Storat

LOOKING AHEAD

SUN. OCTOBER 3 – 10:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary.

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

MON. OCTOBER 4 – 7 – 8 PM Girl Scouts

OCTOBER 10 – 10:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary.

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)

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 14th. Thanks for all your help!

SECOND READING

James 5:13-20

13 Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. 14 Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. 17 Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

19 My brothers and sisters,* if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, 20 you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner’s* soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

LESSONS

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 – 1st Lesson

4 The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, 'If only we had meat to eat! ⁵We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.'

10 Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. ¹¹So Moses said to the LORD, 'Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? ¹²Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, "Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child", to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? ¹³Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, "Give us meat to eat!" ¹⁴I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. ¹⁵If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.'

16 So the LORD said to Moses, 'Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.'

24 So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

26 Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.'²⁸And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men,^{*} said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' ²⁹But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!'

James 5:13-20 – 2nd Lesson

13 Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

19 My brothers and sisters,^{*} if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's^{*} soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Mark 9:38-50 - Gospel

38 John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone^{*} casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' ³⁹But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

42 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me,^{*} it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell,^{*} to the unquenchable fire.^{*} ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.^{*}^{*} ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,^{*} ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

49 'For everyone will be salted with fire.^{*} ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it?^{*} Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✕ 18th Sunday after Pentecost ✕
September 26, 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: We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized and encourage them in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship. Lord, in your mercy,

"hear our prayer."

A: We pray for natural wonders of your creation. Restore damaged forests, waterways, and natural habitats and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided.

Lord, in your mercy,

"hear our prayer."

A: We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved.

Lord, in your mercy,

"hear our prayer."

A: We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. Today we pray especially for: Cyndie, Sandra, Bill, Bob, Ann, Frank, Robin, Beverly, Sue, Kathy, Connie, Stephen, the family and friends of Candice Robinson, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

"hear our prayer."

A: We pray for the worship leaders of Blue Church: musicians, readers, acolytes, and ushers. Bless us

through their ministry and grant them the passion to continue in their service. Lord, in your mercy,

"hear our prayer."

A: We give thanks for all your saints, those we have loved and known and those from every time and place. Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation. 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.