

March 18, 2020

Dear People of God at BLC,

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lutheran Book of Worship, Evening Vespers

This prayer is appropriate every day, but feels especially resonant in these uncertain days. We have all we need when we have God's hand leading us and God's love supporting us, but when the rest of our normal touchpoints and contacts are interrupted, the untrodden paths and unknown perils feel much more daunting.

While we are practicing physical distance in order to curb the spread of COVID-19, we need social connection more than ever. We are working hard to create new pathways of connection with one another in the following ways:

- **BLC Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/BLCfairport/>
We have had a public page on Facebook for some time; it has become significantly more active in recent days. This is where you will find livestream worship (Sunday mornings at 8:30am and Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 7pm). If you can't share in real-time, the videos are also available there for later viewing. We are also using this platform for sharing other devotions and resources to support your spiritual journey during this time of crisis. Note: you do NOT need to have a Facebook account in order to see what is posted on this page, including livestream worship. Click on the link above and scroll down to the "posts." (You DO need an account if you would like to comment on the page or interact in any way.)
- **NEW Private Facebook Group (Bethlehem Fairport Members and Friends)**
[facebook.com/groups/blcfairport](https://www.facebook.com/groups/blcfairport)
This is our effort to create a virtual space where we can share conversation with others connected to BLC. The group is public (anyone can find it when searching for it) but the people who are members of it and what is posted to the group are private (only members of the group can see its members and posts). Pastor Hoffman and Pastor Amy will post questions or thoughts as prompts for discussion and check ins with one another, but you are also welcome to do so. You DO need an account with Facebook in order to join the FB group.
- **Zoom** is a tool that allows us to video chat as a group. (Everyone's picture comes up on your screen and it looks like the Brady Bunch!) It's a great way to have a virtual meeting/Bible study/conversation – all without leaving our homes. We intend to set up "Zoom meetings" for Bible study, Council meetings, maybe even the Ladies' Brunch Bunch! Contact the office if you would like us to set up a Zoom meeting for your group. You'll get a link to share with attendees. To participate, attendees click on the emailed link from a computer, tablet, or smartphone to be connected. (There is free software download the first time, but it is straightforward.) This option also gives a phone number that those without the above capabilities can use to call in (they can hear and contribute to the conversation; they just won't see or be seen).



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

- **BLC Star** will continue to be emailed on Thursdays. It will be a significantly shorter version than usual, consisting of a reflection, weekly calendar (including virtual meetups), and a list of ways to help during this time.
- **BLC Website** (www.blcfairport.org) will be kept up-to-date with any information shared, including a list of ways to help, virtual events as they are scheduled, and the order of service for worship. The new tab along the top called “BLC Today” is the primary place where we are updating information.
- **Email Communication** will be sent to those who have signed up through our website. The BLC Star is sent by email as well as other notifications (like this letter!). If you do not yet receive communication from BLC by email, sign up on the website by clicking “Electronic Subscriptions” under the “BLC Today” tab. Choose “BLC Congregational Announcements” and “Weekly Star” options.
- We will prioritize **phone calls** to those who do not have email or online access so that they are in the loop. If you know of someone who is not receiving communication from BLC, please contact the church office!
- **Pastoral Care** is available anytime. Reach out to the Pastors via email, phone, or Facebook. While we continue to try for some degree of normal working hours during the week, one of us will always be available. For urgent needs, call the church office and choose the pastoral care line.

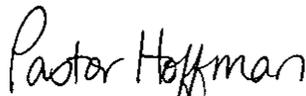
If you have other suggestions for means of connection that would be helpful for BLC to facilitate during this time of physical distancing or if you have a need for any form of support, please contact the church office or one of the co-Pastors.

Thank you for your commitment to loving God and one another during these uncertain times. We know you will continue to be God’s loving presence as you reach out to others in the BLC community, as well as neighbors and friends, through phone calls, texts, emails, cards and letters. We are grateful to serve alongside you as we chart a path forward, always and only with the help of God.

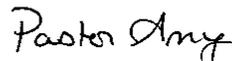
May God’s peace be with you,



Rick Walker
Council President



The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman
Co-Pastor



The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson
Co-Pastor

Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9am to 12noon. During these times, please call (585) 223-0634 to reach us directly, otherwise you may continue to email us at office@blcfairport.org and we'll respond as we're able. For urgent pastoral care needs outside of office hours, please call the office and leave a message on the pastoral care line. (Either Pastor Amy or Pastor Hoffman remain available at all times for urgent needs.)

Building Access: During this time, we want to be especially cautious about limiting the spread of COVID-19 to those who are most vulnerable in our community.

Recognizing that this virus lives on hard surfaces, we are limiting access to our building and encouraging you to help us do that by considering this guidance before coming to Bethlehem:

1. In the last 14 days, have you or anyone you have been in contact with, felt ill, currently sick or been sick with any of the following:
Flu like symptoms, sneezing, coughing, stomach ache/ pain/ flu, fever?
2. Have you used any public transportation; airplane, taxi, bus, subway, ride share (Uber, Lyft) etc in the last 2 weeks?
3. Have you been out of the country in the last 2 weeks?

If you have answered YES to any of the questions above, we ask that you refrain from entering our building at this time. If your access to the building is essential, please limit the surfaces you touch and wash your hands upon entry and exit.

We thank you for helping us to love our neighbors in this way.