



Sunday, October 4, 2026
Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org

PRELUDE

When Morning Gilds the Skies
(LAUDES DOMINI)

Dan R. Edwards
tune: Joseph Barnby

The Chancel Bells

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we mark the Feast Day of Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226. Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

Red hymnal - ELW - Evangelical Lutheran Worship Blue hymnal - ACS - All Creation Sings

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus, Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN	All Creatures, Worship God Most High!	ELW 835
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Stanzas 1, 2, 3: All

4: Choir

5, 6: All

GREETING

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

God of the Sparrow

(text: Jaroslav J. Vajda - ELW 740)

Carl F. Schalk

BLC Youth Ensemble

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the water of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP WITH JOY!

All kids ages 3 through grade 5 are welcome to a special worship time with a small snack and song, a time of hearing the Word, conversation and activities! Parents can remain in the sanctuary while the kids gather in designated spaces. Children will return during the offering so they can participate in Communion

READING: Galatians 6:14-18

Paul closes the letter reminding the Galatians that neither circumcision nor uncircumcision matters, only new creation, which belongs to all baptized in Christ.

¹⁴ May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation is everything!

¹⁶ As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

¹⁷ From now on, let no one make trouble for me, for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

¹⁸ May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING: Psalm 148:7-14

The Psalm writer emphasizes that all creation — and not just human beings — belongs to the Creator and offers praise!

- ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
⁸ **fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**
⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ **Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**
¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹² **Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**
¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ **He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.**
Praise the LORD!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung 2 times

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

Hal - le - lu - jah.

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	This Is My Father’s World	ELW 824
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AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM – RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS

APOSTLES’ CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYER OF WELCOME

Gathering God . . . We welcome you and your faith as it flows through life's joys and challenges. We desire for this church to be a place where you can show up as your true self and be received with love and grace.

Faith is a team sport, and we are in this together. In this community, we choose curiosity over certainty, and strive to honor each other's faith expressions and life experiences with respect and love. We welcome you as members of this congregation, inspired and invested in the ministry we all share. You matter, and your presence here is a gift! May God bless our relationships and our common call as agents of God's mercy and the abundance the world needs. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

#1 God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation especially Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

#2 God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

#3 Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who care for your creation in its fullness; and for our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. In all our endeavors, remind us that we who are many, are one body in Christ.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We know that you love all people, you see our needs, and you know our cares and concerns, our hopes and joys.

We pray for those who are deployed, especially:

- Zainab M, deployed on the USS Roosevelt

We pray for those who grieve, especially the family and friends of:

- Ray, friend of Dave W, who died on 9/26
- Adam, friend of Kim K, who died on 9/21
- Kent, father of Hans and Amp W-P's brother-in-law Nate who died on 9/22
- Darlene, sister of Bob S's close friends Vince and Lois

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Jessica, friend of Alli O'M
- Mark S, neighbor of Mike and Sandy J, recently diagnosed with cancer
- Kathy S, who is back home after undergoing tests for an ongoing illness

Hear these concerns we raise in our hearts or on our voice.

Silence for individual prayer.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SHARING GOD'S MEAL

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace in a way that cares for friend and neighbor. If you worship virtually, share the peace through the comments section or text.

OFFERING

Thank you for your offerings that support the ongoing ministry that we share. Information about supporting Bethlehem's ministry with your offerings is available in the Welcome insert in your pew rack or by visiting blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry or scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page.



OFFERING OF MUSIC

Declare Your Maker's Praise!

Lloyd Larson

Incorp.

"Gabriel's Oboe" – music: Ennio Morricone

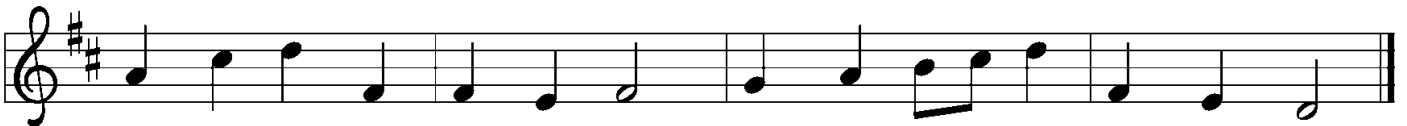
"This Is My Father's World" – ELW 824

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,

and make us one in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in spirit, we pray as Jesus taught:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who

sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Our communion bread is gluten-free, unless noted by the pastor. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant.

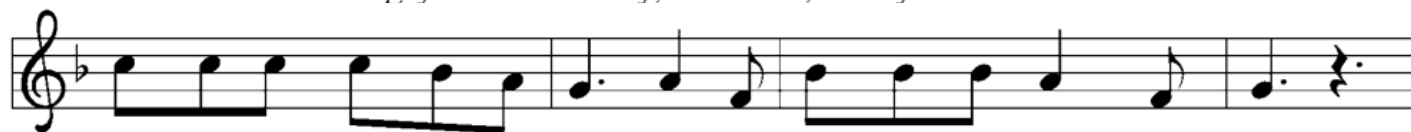
THE COMMUNION



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

HYMNS FOR COMMUNION

Build a Longer Table

ACS 1062

Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom

ACS 1064

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

pa - ra cons-truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.

Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata on *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

(OLD HUNDREDTH)

Michael Burkhardt

tune: Louis Bourgeois

BLC Pastors

The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Chrisanne Gates, Chancel Choir Director

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

Additional musical leadership provided by:

BLC Youth Ensemble:

Isabel Hofman, Madeleine Hoffman, Micah Hoffman, Olivia Koncilja,

Ryan Koncilja, Pearl Sauer

Keyboard: Michael Koncilja

Percussion: James Berner, Neil Vokes, Dave Wideman

Special Thanks to Susie Kieren, guest oboist, for assisting us with the offertory of music today.

Special Thanks as well to Father Michael Calabria, OFM, for proclaiming the word in worship today. Father Michael is a longtime friend and teaching colleague of Pastor Amy and is the Director of the Center for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure University, where he is also Associate Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies.

Thank you to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Talk with one of the pastors following worship or send an email to volunteersupport@blcfairport.org and we'll follow up!

Communicate with us: Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

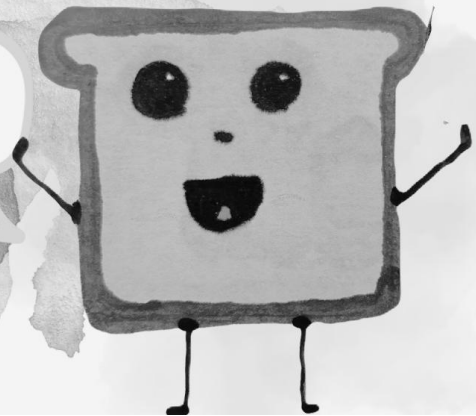
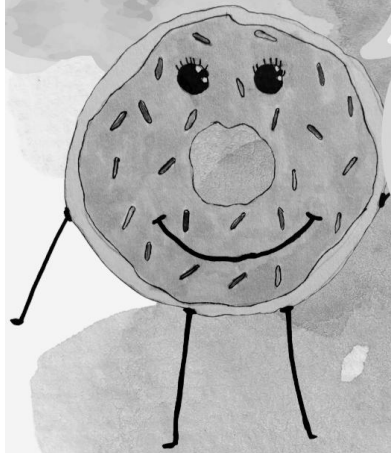
What's happening at BLC this week? Visit the Calendar of Events at www.blcfairport.org. Zoom links for virtual meetings are also found there. If you would like to schedule a meeting or event, please email the church office at office@blcfairport.org or visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

Church office hours: Sandy Squires holds office hours on Wednesdays from 9-1 and is responsive to phone and email Monday through Friday during usual business hours. Please communicate your needs through the church office by phone (585) 223-0634 or by email office@blcfairport.org. Our co-Pastors are available Sunday – Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling the church office or emailing pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org

Sunday Table - October 4th

Are you excited
about new members?

YES! I can't wait to
meet them!



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New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.

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“Glory to You, God” *All Creation Sings* – Holy Communion, Setting 12

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien; Music: J. Bert Carlson © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” – WOV 612 Music: Caribbean traditional

Arranger: Mark Sedio Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

“Take My Life, That I May Be” – ELW 685, stt. 1, 2 Text: Frances R. Havergal, alt.

Music: William H. Havergal © 2006 Augsburg Fortress, Publishers

“Come to the Table” – ELW 481 Text: Claire Cloninger; Music: Martin J. Nystrom

© 1991 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music (adm. Word Music)

“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth” Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford

Music: Anonymous, Central America; English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”, Tune: Joseph Barnby, Music: Dan R. Edwards, © 2002 Cantabile Press

“God of the Sparrow”, Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

Music: Carl F. Schalk, © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

“Declare Your Maker’s Praise!”, Music: Lloyd Larson, © 2015 BMG VM Music, Ltd.

Incorp. “Gabriel’s Oboe” from motion picture THE MISSION

Music: Ennio Morricone, © 1986 BMG VM Music, Ltd.

“Toccata on Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”, Tune: Louis Bourgeois – OLD HUNDREDTH

Music: Michael Burkhardt, © 1989 MorningStar Music Publishers

New Members



Elizabeth (Lizz) and Matt Hooper and Joey – Lizz grew up in a Lutheran church and wanted to share this faith with their son, Joey. In talking with their friends, Jason and Kristen Pilcher, they were invited to Bethlehem! Lizz is a teacher in the Wayne Central Schools and Matt works for Erie Insurance. Joey started 1st grad this fall.

Address: 21 Sugarmills Circle
Fairport, NY 14450



Joan Kiesow grew up attending Lutheran congregations in Rochester and after learning about Bethlehem through our website and watching the livestream, she made the leap to attend in person! When she did, she discovered that she already had a connection with Lil Lassen-Ward! Joan works at ECC Technologies.

Address: 107 Broxbourne Drive
Fairport, NY 14450

The Franciscan Movement

The whole Franciscan movement began with one man who heard the call of Christ to "rebuild my Church." From that moment on, Francis created a counter-cultural revolution centered on living simply, loving all (especially the poor), and serving the Church. Other men began to follow Francis' way of life, as well as one young woman named Clare. Together, Francis and Clare and their fellow sisters and brothers created what would become the Franciscan movement we have today.

Learn more about Saints Francis and Clare, including The Order of Lutheran Franciscans, by visiting www.lutheranfranciscans.org.

The Order of Lutheran Franciscans take their place within the tradition of the Franciscan family, passionately following Jesus, rebuilding his Church, living lives of mutual care and accountability in harmony with the creeds and confessions of the Lutheran Church and both in the spirit and practice of the Evangelical Counsels, faithfully following the simple way of Saint Francis of Assisi.