

Revised and Updated May 2020

**Indicates updated links to direct viewers to the proper locations on our new website in August 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 continue to practice physical distance in order to curb the spread of COVID-19, we need social connection more than ever. We are working hard to continue our new pathways of connection with one another in the following ways:

- **BLC Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/BLCfairport/>
This is where you will find livestream worship (Sunday mornings at 8:30 am and Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 7 pm). 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)
We have created 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 only members of the group can see its members and posts. Pastor Hoffman and Pastor Amy post questions or thoughts as prompts for discussion and check ins with one another, but you are also welcome (and encouraged!) to do so. You DO need an account with Facebook in order to join a Facebook 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 have set up "Zoom meetings" for Bible study, Education Hours, Council meetings, and other social groups! You can see the weekly virtual connections on the calendar that is shared through the bulletin, STAR and BLC Today page on our website. 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).

- **BLC STAR** is still emailed on Thursdays. It includes a reflection for the upcoming Sunday, the weekly calendar (including virtual meetups), and other announcements for the good of the community. We are continually working to keep this newsletter concise but complete.
- ***BLC Website** (<https://blcfairport.org/>) is 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 weekly worship. The most current information can be found here. Each Monday we post the video from Sunday worship.
- ***Email Communication** is sent to those who have signed up through our website. The BLC STAR is sent by email. If you do not yet receive communication from BLC by email, sign up by visiting <https://blcfairport.org/email-list-subscriptions/>.
- We made a concerted effort to prioritize **phone calls** to those who do not have email or online access so that they are in the loop, as well as call through our directory to make personal connections with our BLC members and friends. If you know of someone who is not receiving communication from BLC, please contact the church office! We continue to reach out with personal connections during this time; please join the effort and touch base with the people you miss seeing in person at BLC!
- **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 or call or text (585) 364-2129.

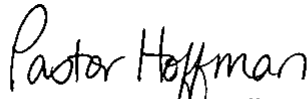
If you have other suggestions for means of connection that would be helpful for BLC to facilitate during this time of physical distancing or if you have a need for any form of support, please contact the church office or one of the co-Pastors.

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.

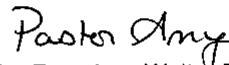
May God's peace be with you,



Rick Walker
Council President



The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman
Co-Pastor



The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson
Co-Pastor