



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY  
*star*



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

*As we prepare for worship this weekend, consider reading this week's lessons along with this reflection to ground yourself in the Word. This reflection comes from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com) and is also printed on the back of the worship bulletin.*

### Called to Community

Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matt. 18:20). In these Sundays after Pentecost, we are repeatedly reminded that God has not abandoned us and that Christ's resurrection and ascension are a beginning for us, not an end. The readings this week focus on the practical work of the gathered Christian community: turning from sin to repentance, from conflict to reconciliation. The question is as relevant today as it was for the disciples and the first Christians: how do we live together, work together, as the body of Christ? We have been saved by grace, liberated by God's love to love one another. What does it mean for us and for our community to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 13:14) and to clothe ourselves in love?

We keep asking these questions because the way we gather as Christians continues to be profoundly countercultural. We do not gather as a social club, drawn and kept together only by shared demographics and interests. If church is only a social club, there is no reason to continue to gather if conflict arises, if uncomfortable issues are raised, or if "the way it's always been" begins to change. If church is only a social club, there is no reason to do the hard work of reconciliation and forgiveness.

God calls us into community knowing that being in community is hard. In scripture we can find practical guidance for gathering through good and hard times. The Holy Spirit is always at work—in, through, and among us—to gather and regather us again. In community we meet and become Christ's body in ways that are impossible for us as individuals; all the commandments are fulfilled in this call to neighbor-love (Rom. 13:9).

*This column will also occasionally feature reflections or devotions from members of the congregation as one way that we practice discipleship and share ministry together. If you would like to contribute in the future, please contact the church office.*

#### WORSHIP TIMES:

##### WEDNESDAYS

7:00 PM EVENING PRAYER &  
REFLECTION (BLC PARKING LOT)

##### SUNDAYS

8:30 AM WORSHIP  
(FACEBOOK PREMIERE)



### Worship the Living God

**Lesson for Sunday, 9/6:** Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40;  
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

**Lesson for Sunday 9/13:** We begin a new series -  
*Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart*  
Exodus 1:22, 2-1:10

★ *Don't forget to look for this **Star Icon** (★) to easily  
identify the newest information each week*

If you are looking for information not included in the STAR, check the [website](http://website)!  
As always, contact the church office ([office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org)) if you don't find the information you need!

★ **Midweek Evening Prayer & Reflection:** We will continue to gather at 7 pm on Wednesdays for a brief time of midweek evening prayer and reflection in the BLC parking lot. In rain or sun (but never lightning!) we'll hear Scripture, reflect on the text as a group, and offer prayers on behalf of the community. These short gatherings give us a chance to experience gathering with other members of the BLC community in a physically-distanced way. Masks are required (we'll have some available if you forget yours). Bring your own chair and an umbrella (if needed). Park in the Landing Lot or on Perrin Street so we can preserve our parking lot for our gathering time.

**Are you Ready for Worship?** Find worship details (for Sunday mornings), a link to the bulletin (Order of Worship) and the Zoom logins (for Sunday morning gatherings that follow worship) each Saturday in a special email to get you ready for worship! Please contact the church office at [office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org) if you are not receiving these emails and would like to be added to the distribution!

★ **You can also look for more information about how to connect by visiting** <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> – we are keeping it more updated than ever before! If we haven't anticipated your question, contact the church office.

★ **Wayne Shipman's Ordination Celebration...** Saturday, **September 12**. We are privileged to announce Pastor Shipman's service of ordination to the ministry of word and sacrament. This special festive service will be 10:00 am at St. John's Lutheran Church in Victor, NY. Attendance is limited; please contact Wayne at [wshipman2020@gmail.com](mailto:wshipman2020@gmail.com) to RSVP or get the website info for the livestreamed event. Wayne has been blessed to worship and serve at BLC, and will return in June 2021 to preach during the Anniversary celebrations. Wayne and Janet will be living in southeast Idaho and serving two churches: Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (Pocatello, ID) and Emanuel Lutheran (Blackfoot, ID). They are super excited and anxious at the same time. Your prayers and good wishes are welcomed! After September 15, their new address will be: 3562 Somerset Drive, Pocatello, ID 83201. Godspeed and Safe Travels!

★ **Make a Joyful Noise!** If you or your child are interested in joining an ensemble, rehearsals resume in **September**! All are welcome. Please see the info below for this fall's options!

- **Chancel Bells** (9<sup>th</sup> grade and older) rehearse on Wednesdays in the sanctuary from 6:30-7:30 pm (beginning **September 9**) and will record performances for livestream worship. Contact Annette Finkbeiner at [avfinkbeiner@blcfairport.org](mailto:avfinkbeiner@blcfairport.org). Rehearsals will take place in the sanctuary with masking and physical distancing.
- **Youth Choir** (elementary/middle school) Rehearsals begin **virtually** on **September 14** and run from 6-6:45 pm on Monday evenings. If you are interested in participating, contact Annette Finkbeiner at [avfinkbeiner@blcfairport.org](mailto:avfinkbeiner@blcfairport.org).
- **Chancel Choir** rehearsals will resume on **September 9**, 7:30-9:00. Our rehearsals this fall will happen on Wednesdays via zoom. We will prepare anthems every 3-4 weeks as virtual choir performances that combine individual videos from choir members. The virtual platform that we will use this fall may make it possible for those who normally could not participate in choir to be a part of our anthems. If you would like to be involved or have any additional questions, please reach out to Jim Jefferis at [jamescjefferis@gmail.com](mailto:jamescjefferis@gmail.com).



## Grow in Faith and Discipleship

★ **Midweek Bible Study:** Beginning Wednesday, **September 9**, Midweek Bible Study will begin studying the Book of Acts. Bring your Bible and your questions as we work our way through the book for the next several weeks. Please consider joining us in our Zoom conversations - Wednesdays at 9:30 am. Please join us! Questions - contact Kathy Moragne - [kathymoragne@gmail.com](mailto:kathymoragne@gmail.com)

**Sunday School for the 2020 – 2021 Program Year:** The Educational Leadership committee has been planning and listening to the congregation all summer regarding our path for the upcoming school year. Needless to say, the month of September will be a huge adjustment time for teachers, students and parents as kids begin their year in regular education classrooms from home or in-school. For that reason, BLC **will not** begin any Sunday School activities until the month of **October** and at this point, we are making all-virtual plans!

We are also thinking that Sunday School will look different this year. Confirmation and LYO leaders will set their own agenda with the kids, but Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will follow a more family-based model. BLC will offer devotions, videos, stories, crafts and lessons for families to follow that can be looked at over the week, not just on Sundays. You may pick and choose activities and participate at a time that works for your family. All lessons will follow the basic Faith 5 model each week that the Pastors have introduced. Faith 5 = Share, Read, Talk, Pray and Bless. We will be asking for volunteers to tape stories, lessons and/or crafts throughout the year so that we can involve as many people as possible. Truly, team leadership at its finest. We are also looking into partnering with other congregations to expand our outreach.

Adult education will continue with different offerings either in a small group format or on Zoom. If you have a book or topic that you would like to discuss, please let us know.

During these challenging times, we want to make sure that we continue growing and strengthening strong connections with BLC members of all ages. Please join us on this journey. If you would like to be involved, please contact Marcy Adams at [retiredmarcy@gmail.com](mailto:retiredmarcy@gmail.com).



## Live Our Faith in Daily Life

★ **The BLC Property Committee** meets regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month to tackle jobs in and around BLC. We're responsible for the building and everything in it, to enable the wonderful worship, ministries, and activities that take place here. Help is needed, both occasional and ongoing. All are welcome, and no special skills are required. Plus, it's a lot of fun and always interesting! If you'd like to come regularly or just be on our distribution, contact the church office or Bob Stolze. Or, see what it's about at our next meeting on Saturday, **September 12** at 9:15 am. Thanks!

★ **Women's Fellowship Summer Offering!** The group has extended the current study to include sessions on **9/15 & 9/29**. Pastor Amy will continue to lead these sessions via Zoom. The book we will be discussing is *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. We will be discussing Chapter 7, Fish Stories on 9/15. If you have any questions please feel free to call or text Cathy Gottermeier at 585-429-0782 or email her at [cgotterm@rochester.rr.com](mailto:cgotterm@rochester.rr.com). Women's Fellowship is open to women of all ages. We hope you will consider joining us! Friends are welcome! Many thanks to Pastor Amy for leading this discussion.



## Care for One Another

**Adopt a College Freshman:** As many of you know, during **God's work. Our Hands** we usually make care baskets for our college freshman. Since this year's "Back to School" takes on a new look, we thought that it might be fun to adopt a college freshman. You would receive a name and you and your family could send notes, cards and even gift boxes over the coming school year. Some suggestions for a back to school box would be snacks, colored pencils, warm blanket, fun things for the dorm room, decorated computer paper, a devotional or small Bible or anything that you can think of. *See the Serve section for more info on how to sign up to participate for the week of service!* If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Marcy Adams at [retiredmarcy@gmail.com](mailto:retiredmarcy@gmail.com) or Beth Schoenfeld at the church office. We will match you up with a college student and offer more suggestions.

★ **Homebound Member Birthdays in September:** Iona Jones, 9/8 and Connie Helbig on 9/17. As we all weather this pandemic, remember all of our home bound family and anyone else you feel might need a word of hope! It must be lonely for those who are challenged with getting about safely. Birthdays are a great time to remind them that they remain in our thoughts and prayers as members of our community of faith here at BLC. For further information, please contact Donna Berner at [donnaberner@yahoo.com](mailto:donnaberner@yahoo.com).



## Serve Our Neighbor

**M&SC** stands for the Mission and Social Concerns Committee. M&SC Committee members: Cathy Gottermeier, Pat Kurtz, Julie Owen, Carolyn Straub, Beth and Rick Walker, Pastor Amy Walter-Peterson, and Desiree Wolfe. **Visitors are always welcome at meetings to ask questions or provide suggestions.** The next M&SC meeting is **September 9, 2020**, 6pm via Zoom. If you would like to attend but are not part of the committee, please contact Beth Walker at [rbowsend@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rbowsend@rochester.rr.com)

**\*The mission focus for September is Service. How will you serve others in September? See below!**

**God's Work – Our Hands week of service will be September 27 – October 3.** Here is how YOU can participate:

1. Identify and organize your own service activity which meets social distance and safety guidelines (ideas are below but do not feel limited by these)
2. Gather family or friends to complete your activity
3. Have your group leader register using the [form at the NEW BLC website](#).
4. Complete your activity anytime the week of September 27 – October 3, 2020
5. Take pictures. Share them on social media and send them to [office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org) by noon October 1 to be part of our celebration during worship October 4.

### Just a few ideas!

- Do yard work or chores for a neighbor
- Put together a care package for a member of your neighborhood or community who might be struggling or need an emotional boost
- Offer a virtual story time for neighborhood children
- Start a game or puzzle exchange
- Walk a dog for a neighbor every day for the week of service.
- Clean up a public area
- Serenade your neighbors
- Give blood <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>
- Chat and Listen - Call older members of your family or friends, perhaps members of BLC
- Letters to first responders – Operation Gratitude <https://www.operationgratitude.com/express-your-thanks/firstresponders/>
- Homemade masks for distribution (drop off at any Goodwill location) <https://www.uwrochester.org/COVID-19-Response/Masks>
- Blankets for Project Linus – <https://www.projectlinus.org/> Especially needed are blankets for boys ages 5-18, but they will take any. Restrictions: new materials only, no pet hair or perfume, colorful, washable (no wool). 40" x 60". Quilted, knit or crocheted. Patterns on the website. Drop off to Debbie at Peaceful Scenes Quilt Shop, Victor. Leave your name and address in bag with quilts.
- \*Baby blankets (34" x 46") for the Baby Closet at St. Mark's Church Newark, NY. Please send blankets to Beth Walker, 4348 Dormedy Hill Rd, Marion, NY 14505 to be delivered after Jan 1.
- Need more ideas? <https://now.givingtuesday.org/ideas/>

### **Reframing asylum, immigration, and migration: LIRS Webinars. Everything you thought you knew is probably only a tiny bit of the story!**

- Karen Gonzalez was the third author in this series. She discussed her book *The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible and the Journey to Belong*.
- View recordings of Ms. Gonzalez talk and previous authors at <https://www.lirs.org/virtual-book-series>
- Sign up for the last webinar: Author Jacob Soboroff *Separated: Inside an American Tragedy* at the website above.

**Faith Formation Printing in Zimbabwe** – The Upstate NY Synod is still collecting money to help print three volumes of Sunday School and Confirmation materials in the Shona language. The goal is \$5070. We are so close! Helping to provide culturally responsive faith formation is one way we can walk with our brothers and sisters in Africa! Funds can be sent to the Upstate NY Synod office, 5811 Heritage Landing Drive, East Syracuse, NY 13057 or through the BLC office.

**BLC Food Pantry Collection** –BLC is hosting a collection for the Perinton Food Shelf which has seen unprecedented demand during the pandemic as more families experience food insecurity. Overstock donations from local grocers dropped dramatically and all local churches were not able to receive ongoing donations. Help us to extend our blessing by bringing non-perishable items each Wednesday evening at the Outdoor Evening Reflection & Prayer. Food items in original packaging that are not expired or damaged are accepted along with paper products and personal hygiene items. Current needs include: Gravy, stuffing, canned beef stew, corned beef hash, roast beef hash, mustard, ketchup, pancake mix, syrup and boxed dried potatoes. On your next grocery trip, consider picking up a few extra items to share with your neighbors. For more information, contact Andy & Ruth Gates.

## **Council News**

### ★ The work of the **Re-Opening Team** continues!

- Hand sanitizing stations, soap dispensers and touch free towel dispensers have been installed throughout our building.
- Occupancy signs have been posted for elevators, bathrooms, and rooms that will be available for small groups to use.
- Plans and protocols have been finalized to open our building, by reservation only, for use by small groups.
- Two BLC Go Bags that will be stored in the Work Room across from the office. These bags, containing masks, gloves, a rope to show six-feet, and hand sanitizer, are available to anyone who wishes to host a BLC-sponsored, outdoor gathering. Contact the office if you need assistance accessing one of these bags.

Watch here for ongoing updates about the work of the Re-Opening Team. Members include: Matt Beutel, Brian Edwards, Margie Gaul, Kristina Henry, Julie Owen, Bob Stolze, Rick Walker, and Pastor Amy Walter-Peterson

## **We Ask Your Prayers:**

### **For those whose thanks or needs are known to us:**

*We pray for the people who are struggling in body, mind or spirit:*

*Those who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:*

- Antonio Lannuzzi (fiancé of Darcy Geddis' daughter, Jessica) who died of a heart attack on 8/22

*Those in need of healing, especially:*

- Grace Garvey who is moving to receive comfort care at home
- Evelyn Ekegren (mother of Kay Slattery) who is now receiving comfort care at home
- Carol Stevens (sister of Kathy Moragne) as she recovers from surgery on 9/2
- Those who are infected with the Coronavirus and their caregivers

We also fulfill our commitment to pray for one another by remembering these members & friends of Bethlehem and their families: Ed & Sharon Hancock, Jeff Hansen, Josh Hansen, Britta Hansen, Jimmy & Laura Harman (Paige Harman), Ryan Harman, Betty Harper, Pam Heiple and our brothers and sisters in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Additional ongoing prayer concerns can be found in the monthly prayer listing.

[Click here to view and print the September long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!

**Announcements for the STAR** should be submitted through the office by Wednesday morning at 9am. **Receive the STAR by email:** Visit [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org), click Resources and select Email Newsletter. Follow the prompts to sign up!



The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors  
48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org)



<https://www.facebook.com/BLCFairport/>



## Calendar for week of September 6 – September 13

(Updated on 9/3/20 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, September 6

8:30 am Facebook  
Premiere Worship (recording  
available following worship)  
7:30 pm Zoom\* LYO  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

### Monday, September 7

**BLC Office Closed in  
observance of Labor Day**

### Tuesday, September 8

### Wednesday, September 9

9:30 am Zoom\* Bible Study  
([Join](#) ID 943 3691 2942)  
6:00 pm Zoom\* Mission & Social  
Concerns Meeting  
7:00 pm Midweek Evening Prayer  
& Reflection (BLC Parking Lot)  
6:30 pm Chancel Bells  
7:30 pm Zoom\* Chancel Choir  
Rehearsal

### Thursday, September 10

**Church office closed**  
6:30 pm BLC Officers Meeting

### Friday, September 11

### Saturday, September 12

10:00 am Wayne Shipman's  
ordination celebration at St.  
John's Lutheran Church in  
Victor, NY

### Sunday, September 13

8:30 am Facebook  
Premiere Worship (recording  
available following worship)

**Pastor Hoffman is on vacation this week.** Please contact Pastor Amy with any pastoral care needs.

**Church office closed for the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, September 7**

**Beth Schoenfeld will be away from the office on Thursday, September 10**

**For additional details** about any of the meetings, events and activities listed above contact the church office!

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

**\*To join any of our BLC Zoom meetings, use the ID provided or contact the church office and/or group organizer.**

**\*Zoom Options:** For recurring meetings, the info will remain the same each time. Participants can join with the link provided (above where applicable, or via email), or by using the Meeting ID and manually enter the password (the 10-digit BLC phone number with area code, no spaces or hyphens). **Please contact the group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details! If you have trouble accessing a Zoom meeting in real-time, you can call or text (585) 364-2129 for assistance.**

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