



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

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



BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY  
*star*



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

Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart has been our theme the past couple months. I've been recalling something Anne Lamott wrote in her book, *Stitches*. I hope you don't mind if I simply share it with you here. Anne writes:

*"Most good families in the 1950's had wooden darning eggs...an egg-shaped piece of wood, stone or ceramic, that fits inside most socks. You may not have heard the word "darning" in years. Darning is to send parallel threads through the damage in socks and sweaters, in and out, in and out, back and forth, over and under, and somehow, you have a piece of fabric again – such as the heel of a sock, that's good enough again, against all odds. This is sort of a miracle – good enough again. Wow. You're weaving, in effect, starting with raggedy edges, going back a bit to the one spot that can still hold new thread.*

*It definitely helps to have a darning egg as you go through life. Trust me on this.*

*I have found that my tiny church (Lamott's St. Andrew Presbyterian) has given me a shape to work against – a darning egg – for the last 30 years, what with all these holes."*

That is what I have been thinking about through this Unraveled series. The miracle of weaving our raggedy edges back to a spot that can still hold and how it sure helps to have a darning egg in life...what with all these holes.

(from *Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair* by Anne Lamott – Riverhead Books, 2013)

~ Ruth Gates



## Worship the Living God

WORSHIP TIME:

SUNDAYS

8:30 AM WORSHIP  
(FACEBOOK LIVE)

This fall our worship centers around the sermon series ***Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart***. In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope—with a new beginning we couldn't have imagined. Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed. Over the next few months, we'll explore stories of unraveled shame, identity, fear, grief, dreams and expectations. These are stories where God meets us in the spiraling, unraveling our plans—and us—into something new.

As you prepare for worship this week consider reading the text and spending time asking these questions:

- What has unraveled and/or is unraveling in this text?
- What are the results of the unraveling?
- How is God working in the midst of the unraveling?
- What might we glean from this story of unraveling?

**Lessons for Sunday: 11/15:** John 4:1-29; **11/22:** Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

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

**Are you Ready for Worship?** There are now three ways to participate in our Livestream of Sunday worship.

1. [Facebook Live](#) - We encourage you to start your own watch party!
2. [Watch On YouTube](#) - Subscribe to our channel
3. [Livestream on the website](#)

You can always find these links on our website at [Share In Worship](#) along with a link to the bulletin (Order of Worship) and the Zoom logins (for Sunday morning gatherings that follow worship). We also send an email each Saturday with all the details 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!

★ **Coffee with a Pastor...** Share a (virtual) cup of coffee via Zoom at 9:45 am on Sunday, **November 15** with Pastor Amy! We'll share conversation together - about worship, scripture, what's happening at church, in the community, in the world, prayer concerns, or whatever else is on your heart and mind. See the calendar, or visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/>

**Reserve your Advent Bag Now!** Advent 2020 is almost upon us. While there are still several weeks before it begins, we wanted to share details about an opportunity for your household to participate more fully this year. No matter who is in your household, we encourage you to visit <https://blcfairport.org/advent-box/> and sign up to reserve an Advent Activity bag for your household.



## Grow in Faith and Discipleship

**Watch for the Light this Advent Season:** With Advent less than four weeks away, we invite you to *Watch for the Light*, this Advent season. For those who wish to have a guide for daily readings this Advent and Christmas season, consider purchasing your own copy of *Watch for the Light*. Ecumenical in scope and containing a variety of authors, the fifty devotions invite you "to contemplate the great themes of Christmas and the significance that the coming of Jesus has for each of us – not only during Advent, but every day. Whether dipped into at leisure or used on a daily basis, *Watch for the Light* gives the phrase 'holiday preparations' new depth and meaning."

*Watch for the Light* is available in a variety of formats online (e-book, hard or soft cover, new or used). [Order on Amazon](#) or look for ISBN 0-87486-917-x at your favorite book retailer! Consider joining the others in the Bethlehem community in grounding your days this Advent season and *Watch for the Light* along the way.

**Faith Formation for Pre-school through High School!** All ages: Weekly - we will post the children's moment (the same one that is shared in worship on Sunday), and additional ways to engage <https://blcfairport.org/faith5-at-home/>

- Zoom\* 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Monthly Meet-Up ([Join](#) or use ID 890 1964 4442). Join Marcy Adams & Sue Cardinal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month (the next one is Sunday, November 15) as we offer a time of connection through stories, music and conversation to kids and families (grades 3-5)
- Confirmation (grades 6-8): Weekly - Mondays at 7 pm via Zoom. Please contact Pastor Amy if you have questions about your child's involvement.
- LYO (grades 9-12): Weekly - Sundays at 7:30 pm via Zoom. If you have any questions, please contact [Bethany Trippi](#)
- Zoom\* Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Monthly Meet-Up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month (the next one is Sunday, December 13) - on as we offer a time of connection through stories, music and conversation to kids and families (ages pre-K through 2nd grade)

As always, please contact the church office, Marcy Adams, Bethany Trippi or Pastor Amy if you are looking for additional support around your faith formation in the home.

**Midweek Bible Study:** Midweek Bible Study will be finishing the Book of Acts in the next few weeks. Join us as we learn more about Paul's missionary journeys. Looking for a short-term study? Join us as we look at the scripture readings for Advent in December. We continue to meet virtually. Please consider joining us in our Zoom conversations - Wednesdays at 9:30 am. Please join us! Questions - contact [Kathy Moragne](#).



## Live Our Faith in Daily Life

★ **LYO has a page on BLC's website!** When BLC's site was remodeled this summer, it was with the plan to continue to expand and enhance our web presence. With that in mind, we've created a page to specifically highlight our LYO (Grades 9-12) group. Visit <https://blcfairport.org/lutheran-youth-organization/> to see what's there! If you haven't already, you can sign up for the LYO specific Newsletter right on the page! If you have any questions, please contact Bethany Trippi or the church office!

**Thanksgiving Pies & Work Camp Fundraising**— Historically, our LYO students have baked and sold pies and sweet breads as a fundraiser for Work Camp. Due to COVID-19, we will not be doing this fundraising activity. If you'd like to support the LYO Work Camp, you are encouraged to send a contribution to the church office with LYO Fundraising in the memo! If you don't have a place to order your holiday pies, you might consider supporting Special Touch Bakery. Learn more at <https://www.specialtouchbakery.org/news-updates/thanksgiving-pie-sale-2020>



## Care for One Another

**Narthex Chats** will continue in Sunday Worship on Sunday, **November 15!** They will be inserted near the postlude so be sure to listen to the end. Each will begin with a prerecorded generic greeting. Each greeting will be followed by a response from someone, perhaps you. We will be sending directions for recording this week to a sampling of families. If you are not part of the first trial group, but would like to be included in the next, please send an email to [office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org).

**Give the gift of Gratitude!** We have a wonderful card ministry to remember our homebound members throughout the year. In this season of thanksgiving, you are encouraged to take a moment to send notes of gratitude and encouragement to any and all of the people in our BLC community. Contact the church office if you need a copy of the most recent directory. If you would like to join the Card Ministry, contact [Donna Berner](#) or 585-314-5732

**Last chance to sign up for the BLC GREAT RACE:** Looking for a “safe” place to go? Miss seeing people? Want to do something different? Here's your answer! With everything you need to know to be part of BLC's GREAT RACE!

WHEN: Saturday, November 21, 12:30-5 p.m.

WHERE: Meet at Center Park, lower lot (off Ayrault Road)

WHAT: Drive to 10 (slightly) mystery locations in Perinton and complete a challenge at each

WHO: YOU in YOUR CAR with your friends or family; all ages welcome.

WHAT'S A CHALLENGE? A 10-15 min activity – some are simple games, some are service projects.

COST: Each car should bring 10 items for the Perinton Food Shelf. These will be needed for one of the challenges.

***YOU MUST SIGN UP BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15***

***(More about the BLC GREAT RACE)***

WHY? All clues must be prepared, printed and sorted in advance. This cannot be done from the parking lot.

HOW DO I SIGN UP? Visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-great-race/> to register you and your family or friends.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER AT ONE OF THE STOPS? Reply to [gerryannwestcott@gmail.com](mailto:gerryannwestcott@gmail.com)

See you Saturday, November 21 about 12:30 pm (gathering) at Center Park (Ayrault Road) to begin the Race by 1 pm.

Sponsored by BLC Fellowship Committee.

Want to know more? Do you still have questions? Contact GerryAnn at [gerryannwestcott@gmail.com](mailto:gerryannwestcott@gmail.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 **December 9, 2020**, at 6 pm 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) for the zoom link.

**The mission focus for November is Each One, Reach One.** In November, BLC gives thanks for all we have by *thinking* about our giving. We call this Thinks-giving. This month reach out by providing hygiene supplies, well fittings and pipes for clean water, or food. If each of us give a little, the world will be a better place!

The M&SC committee is promoting three ways to share your blessings during the Thanksgiving season!

1. Give directly to Foodlink (<https://foodlinkny.org/>) or your local food pantry
2. Donate new washcloths for A Meal and More hygiene bags. Order online and have them sent to Beth Walker 4348 Dormedy Hill Rd, Marion, NY 14505. She will deliver them to a Meal and More in December. (<https://www.walmart.com/search/?query=washcloths> is one possible site to order from)
3. Make a financial donation to BLC to provide food, water and COVID-19 relief. Funds will be split between a well project in Zimbabwe and Lutheran Disaster Relief in Puerto Rico. Please clearly mark donations as "Thinks-giving".

**15 minutes a day Racial Equity Challenge** You can still sign up here to participate

<https://www.uwrochester.org/equitychallenge> or see some of the resources utilized.

**Race – The Power of Illusion** <https://vimeo.com/133506632> is a revealing short video about the origin of the suburbs and who was and wasn't allowed to access the American Dream. Some questions to guide your thinking: What? Who? How? Why?

★ **Angel Tree** – We are planning to do the Angel Tree project again this year to support families in our community. We will have a couple options to obtain an "Angel Tag" with the gift request, and we plan to have options for dropping the gift off at church. We are trying to minimize contact to keep everyone safe and healthy! Stay tuned for additional details. We plan to kick off the project in the next couple weeks.

## Council News

**Support BLC While Doing Your Christmas Shopping!** Did you know that BLC can benefit from your online shopping? Sign up for AmazonSmile and choose Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fairport, NY as your designated charity. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items to BLC. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. With the Christmas shopping season ramping up, this would be a great opportunity to participate in this program! To get more information or to sign up and shop, go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. See Alan Sleeman or Sherry Cook for more information.

**A Modern Way to Give...** a charitable donor-advised fund account is a simple, tax-smart investment solution for charitable giving. You just set up an account with an investment broker who offers donor-advised funds and then contribute cash, securities, or appreciated assets. You'll be eligible for a current-year tax deduction and can be more strategic about your giving decisions. It is a smart way to bundle a contribution in order to create a larger tax deduction and then distribute your gifts over multiple years. If you'd like more information, contact [Andy Gates](#), BLC Finance Committee Chair.

**Giving Statements:** Year-end BLC giving statements will be available in January. Thank you for your generosity so far this year. If you are planning your giving for the remainder of the year and would like a preliminary statement to check on your status, feel free to contact the financial secretary, Dave Wideman. You can ask me in person, call 585-309-3618 or email [Dave Wideman](#).

## Community News

★ "We are Church, We Are Called" Proclaiming-Reforming-Celebrating Worship to Commemorate Women's Ordination in the Lutheran Church on **November 22** at 5 pm via Zoom and streamed live to YouTube. Preaching: The Reverend Leila Ortiz, Bishop, Metro Washington DC Synod. Learn more at <https://upstatenysynod.org/new-events/2020/11/22/synod-wide-worship-opportunity-celebration-of-womens-ordination>

**Abide: Faith, Justice & Love:** Building on the success of the first Abide small group series in late Spring, the Upstate New York Synod is launching another six-week small group series. Different than earlier this year, this new series focuses on the intersection of our baptismal vows and the ELCA social statements. These small groups will gather for six weeks (November 8 - December 17) with a small group leader who will convene your group. *Click this [video link](#) for more details!*

## **We Ask Your Prayers:**

*We pray for those whose thanks or needs are known to us.*

*We pray for those in need of healing, especially:*

- Penelope Langenstein (sister of Kathy Forney), recently diagnosed with AFIB
- The congregation of Zion Lutheran, Cobleskill who had a fire in their sanctuary the weekend of 11/6
- Evelyn & Willard Ekegren (parents of Kay Slattery) who have moved into assisted living
- Bishop John Macholz who is recovering from gallbladder surgery on 11/6
- Marshall Kurfiss who is recovering from back surgery on 11/6
- Brian Edwards as he awaits test results
- Florence King (mother of David Chaffee) who is in ICU following a stroke and emergency surgery
- Chris (son of Learning Links tutor) who is in Neuro-ICO following a fall
- Meg (20-year-old daughter of Learning Links tutor) who is recovering from Oral Cancer surgery and relearning to talk
- Lawson (toddler friend of Learning Links family) who has fought cancer for over a year (*LL family's friend, Lawson, almost 3, and his parents, live in Webster. He has fought brain and spine cancer for over a year. Donations are needed, please go to facebook/gofundme "Lax for Lawson" organized by family friend, Adam Geier*)
- Those impacted by fires, hurricanes and other disasters
- Those who are involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones
- Those who are infected with the Coronavirus and their caregivers
  - Jean (mother of Mary Osgood's friend Linda)
  - Willis (brother-in-law of Kathy Moragne)

We also fulfill our commitment to pray for one another by remembering these members & friends of Bethlehem and their families Nick & Sharon Maragus, Karl Maurer, Rolf & Margaret Maxa, Duncan McKechney, Dan McNelly, 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 November long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!



## Calendar for week of November 15 – November 22

(Updated on 11/11/20 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, November 15

8:30 am Facebook  
Livestream  
Worship  
9:45 am Zoom\* Coffee with a  
Pastor  
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)  
10:00 am Zoom\* 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>  
Grade Monthly Meet-Up  
([Join](#) or use ID 890 1964 4442)  
7:30 pm Zoom\* LYO  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

### Monday, November 16

6:00 pm Virtual Youth Choir  
([Join](#) or use ID 816 9461 2911)  
*No Confirmation 11/16 or 11/23*

### Tuesday, November 17

4:30 pm Zoom\* Education  
Planning Meeting  
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019

### Wednesday, November 18

9:30 am Zoom\* Bible Study  
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)  
6:30 pm Chancel Bells  
7:30 pm Zoom\* Chancel Choir  
Rehearsal  
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

### Thursday, November 19

6:30 pm Zoom\* Church Council

### Friday, November 20

#### **Pastor's Sabbath**

10:00 am Folk Group Rehearsal  
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group  
Rehearsal

### Saturday, November 21

9:30 am Zoom\* Women's Brunch  
Bunch  
([Join](#) or use ID 860 6550 2067)  
12:30 pm BLC Great Race (starts  
at Center Park)

### Sunday, November 22

8:30 am Facebook  
Livestream  
Worship  
9:45 am Zoom\* Coffee with a  
Pastor  
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)  
10:30 am – 12 noon Advent Bag &  
Advent Log pick-up  
7:30 pm Zoom\* LYO  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

**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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**Announcements for the STAR** should be submitted through the office by Wednesday morning at 9am. Visit [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org) and to sign up for reminders and special announcements (including the STAR!)



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