



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

JANUARY 10, 2021

Baptism of Our Lord Sunday



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY star



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

God's love is _____. How would you complete that sentence?

In our celebration of Christmas that just concluded, we remember that God's love is *born* and takes flesh and blood in the person of Jesus. Yet that is just one way God's love is revealed in Scripture. Beginning this week and continuing through February 14, each week we'll hear a different way that Scripture describes God's love. Through the stories of who God is, and how God acts through time, we'll identify different ways to complete the sentence: God's love is _____.

Our Scripture readings this week invite us to consider how **God's love is powerful**. We have seen again this week the ways that humans can use power to intimidate, control, and oppress others. In worship this week, we listen to how God's powerful love is embodied and we ask ourselves how is God's powerful love at work in *our* lives? What are the ways that my life does or doesn't reflect what I believe to be true about a God whose love is powerful?

For each of the next six weeks we invite you to reflect on the way that God's love will be described each week and to add the word or an object that symbolizes the word to the place where you worship in your home. Each week the (Not-For-Children-Only) Children's Message will offer one way to think about the weekly theme. As you gather these items each week, consider creating a collection of these items next to your TV or computer, or you assemble them in the place where you eat meals. One simple way to do this is to cut out a heart from a piece of paper and write the word for each week on the heart. Or keep your eyes open on a daily walk or as you are working in your house this week for an object that symbolizes the powerful nature of God's love for you. We'd love for you to share what speaks to you through a picture on social media and tag Bethlehem Lutheran Church on your post so we can connect with one another and see how we each "see" God's love revealed each week.

In addition, starting this Sunday (and continuing through the end of January) we have the opportunity to join one another in sharing Crucial Conversations as we explore the ELCA's [Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity and Culture](#). (The details are contained in the Grow section of this week's Star.) These conversations provide another opportunity for us to explore God's love at work in the world through deep conversation about the ways our faith intersects the issues we encounter in daily life. Please plan to share in these important conversations on Sunday after worship at 9:45 am.

In the waters of baptism, God's powerful love makes us beloved siblings of Jesus and of one another. I pray that God's powerful love is visible for you this week!

~ Pastor Amy



Worship the Living God

Lessons for Sunday: 1/10: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29;
Mark 1:4-11 *God's love is powerful*

Lessons for Sunday: 1/17: 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm
139:2-6, 24-29; John 2:43-52 *God's love is knowing*

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

**WORSHIP TIME: SUNDAYS ~ 8:30 AM WORSHIP
(FACEBOOK LIVE)**

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](#)

Grow in Faith and Discipleship

★ **Resuming (virtual) Sunday School in the New Year!** We continue to offer opportunities for connection with our Sunday School, Confirmation and LYO groups in the new year. Our [Calendar of Events](#) is the best place to look weekly for details and easy login access for virtual meetings. 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.

- **Weekly** – we will have a children's moment in worship on Sunday, and additional ways to engage on our FAITH5 Page <https://blcfairport.org/faith5-at-home/>
- **Pre-K to 5th Grade students and their families** - Sunday, **January 17** & Sunday, **January 31** at 6:30 pm (note the new time!) we will host two virtual Story times this month. Watch for more information about how to participate next week!
- **Confirmation for youth (grades 6-8)** resumed on **January 4** at 7 pm – 30 minutes on Zoom each Monday evening. Please contact Pastor Amy if you have questions about your child's involvement.
- **LYO (grades 9-12)** has resumed meetings at 7:30 pm on Sundays via Zoom. If you have any questions please contact Bethany Trippi at Bethany.trippi@blcfairport.org. Also keep an eye out for our monthly newsletter coming out on the last day each month!

★ **Devotional resources:** The January – March 2021 editions of Portals of Prayer and Christ in Our Home as well as some extra copies of The Lutheran magazine and Spark Family magazines are available at BLC. If you would like a copy of any of these resources mailed to your home, please contact the office and we'd be happy to send them to you (first come, first serve).

Starting THIS Sunday! Share in BLC's Crucial Conversation on Sunday mornings beginning **January 10** at 9:45 am on Zoom

- **Who:** Co-Lead by Pastor Amy and Pastor Hoffman
- **When:** Sunday mornings, January 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 9:45 am
- **Where:** Zoom event
- **What:** We'll study the ELCA's Social Statement *Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture*

Adopted in 1993 by the Churchwide Assembly, this social statement is available to read and download at <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Race-Ethnicity-and-Culture>. Paper copies are available by contacting the church office. Living our faith in daily life means that we spend time wrestling with big issues in an environment of fellow disciples who hold a diversity of viewpoints, opinions, perspectives and experiences. In this environment we'll learn and study together grounded in the unity that comes from faith in Christ. *Share in this important, faith-centered conversation. Come for all four sessions or whenever you're available.*

★ **Midweek Bible Study:** The group meets weekly at 9:30 am on Wednesday mornings. While our fearless facilitator, Kathy, is caring for family, the group will continue meeting and discussing the texts for each Sunday. Check the calendar for our Zoom codes! Questions - contact [Bob Stolze](#).

Live Our Faith in Daily Life

★ **Preparing for Lent:** For our observance of the Lenten season this year, we are creating a devotional to share with all our members and help draw closer together in spirit. We invite anyone who wishes to write a meditation/reflection to contribute to that devotional at <https://blcfairport.org/preparing-for-lent/>

The often-used image for Lent is that of a wilderness; just as Jesus wandered for forty days in his own wilderness. We certainly have been through a wilderness experience these past several months with the virus and separation from each other and our physical church, and through it all, many questions have arisen: Where have we experienced the wilderness? How did we walk? Who helped us walk? What unexpected things did we find? Where did we see the light? What does our future look like after we come through it?

We want to hear *your* story. You are welcome to use any of these themes for your meditation or to compose whatever inspiration the Holy Spirit brings to you. Please begin your reflection with a simple phrase from Scripture, a poem or a song, if you make your reflection a drawing (black and white only, please!) use the Scripture as a caption. Please also close with a simple one-line prayer. The format is: Title, quote or scripture, the body of your reflection, and the one-line prayer.

★ **The 30-hour famine** has been a powerful experience our LYO has participated in for years. This year much like everything else in our world, it is going to look much different. In this time of solitude, we have found unexpected ways to come together. The LYO would like to invite the rest of the congregation to join them in a 30-Hour Famine Experience. It will take place the weekend of January 15th and will include a variety of virtual and outdoor activities, with the option to fast or not.

Commitment can be customized to your family's comfort level. Simply pledge what you and your family would like to participate in by signing up here <https://blcfairport.org/30-hour-famine-sign-up/>. Stay tuned for more information! Please contact Bethany Trippi with any questions.



Care for One Another

★ **Homebound Member Birthdays in January:** Anita Trabold (1/3). We encourage you to reach out to these members who are not able to attend worship and related activities with us on a regular basis. 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.

We have a wonderful card ministry to remember our homebound members throughout the year. In this ongoing time apart, you are encouraged to take a moment to send notes of 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 more information, or would like to join the Card Ministry, email [Donna Berner](mailto:Donna.Berner) or call 585-314-5732.



Serve Our Neighbor

M&SC stands for the Mission and Social Concerns Committee. The next M&SC meeting is **January 13, 2021**, 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 for the zoom link.

Community Mission News:

House of Mercy has temporarily shut down due to internal cases of COVID-19. They have convened a committee to design an operating and reopening plan. Please pray for the staff and those served, as well as all who engage in social ministry.

Open Door Mission – As of their 2020 Christmas newsletter, the Mission and the Coldwater House for Women and Children are still up and running. Pray for those who serve and those who are served!

Coffee Connection has two locations where you can buy ground or whole bean coffee: 681 South Ave, Rochester and The Greenhouse Café, 2271 E. Main St. Rochester

Yarn Ministry Hats – Cathy Gottermeier has offered to pick up knit winter hats from church and deliver them where needed. Hats may be placed in the tub in the coat room off the narthex, or on the table in the Yarn Ministry room across from the choir room.

Food Pantries – Food insecurity is real. Consider a monetary donation to your local food pantry. Here are addresses for some of the food pantries where members of BLC live.

- Brighton Food Cupboard 220 Idlewood Rd, Rochester, NY 14618
- Brockport Ecumenical Food Shelf, 14 State Street, Brockport, NY 14420
- Foodlink, 1999 Mt. Read Blvd, Rochester, NY 14615
- Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf 500 Maiden Lane, Greece, NY 14616
- Irondequoit Community Cupboard c/o Debbie Evans, PO Box 17834 Rochester, NY 14617
- Marion Food Pantry 2nd Reformed Church, PO Box 32 Marion, NY 14505
- Pal-Mac Food Pantry PO Box 173 Palmyra, NY 14522
- Perinton Food Shelf, PO Box 381, Fairport, NY 14450
- Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf, 1618 Jackson Rd, Penfield NY 14526
- Pittsford Food Cupboard, 3800 Monroe Ste 26, Pittsford, NY 14534
- St. Andrews Food Cupboard, 890 Portland Ave, Rochester, NY 14621
- The Community Food Cupboard of Rochester, 11 Nester St #3, Rochester, NY 14621
- Victor Farmington Food Cupboard PO Box 154, Victor NY 14564

Purchase items with a Smile – If you purchase items on Amazon, consider switching to AmazonSmile.com. You can designate a not-for-profit and a percentage of your purchase will support that organization.

30-hour famine has been a powerful experience our LYO has participated in for years. Read about this year's 30 Hour famine in the LIVE section of this week's STAR!



Council News

★ The **Re-Opening Team** continues its work on Tuesday, **January 12** at 6:30 pm. Members include: Matt Beutel, Brian Edwards, Margie Gaul, Kristina Henry, Julie Owen, Bob Stolze, Rick Walker, and Pastor Amy Walter-Peterson

★ **Council Installation:** On Sunday, **January 10**, we will install Council for the new year and affirm the leadership of our Core Ministry Team. We give thanks for the ministry of Julie Owen, Sherry Cook who have completed their terms as members of Council and Erik Sorenson who resigned from Council earlier this year due to his job relocation, and Kevin Dunn who left council to begin college. We welcome Glenda Lockard & Liana Thibault as new council members. They join our existing council members: Brian Edwards, Andy Gates, Margie Gaul, Mike Higgins, Lisa Meetze and Lisa Rosenbauer & Rick Walker, The Council will elect officers at their first meeting in January. Our Core Ministry Team (CMT) leaders include Toni Thompson (Worship), Marcy Adams (Grow), Cathy Gottermeier (Live), GerryAnn Westcott (Care) and an open position for the leader of (Serve). We give thanks for the ministry Beth Walker, who continues to work closely with Pastor Amy to lead the Serve ministry. Above all, we give thanks to God for the many talents and willing servants found among this community of faith!

★ **2021 offering envelopes:** Offering envelopes will be in the Narthex, starting on Sunday, **January 10**. Please watch for details about a drive-thru pick up option, contact Beth in the church office or Dave Wideman (BLC Financial Secretary) to make arrangements. Also please let us know if you no longer wish to receive physical envelopes.

★ **Save the Date:** Quarterly Dialogue on Sunday, **February 14, 2021 at 9:45 am via Zoom**. Watch the STAR for more details and plan to attend to learn about the many ways Bethlehem continues to live out our mission of Worshipping the Living God, Growing in Faith and Discipleship, Living our Faith in Daily Life, Caring for One Another, and Serving our Neighbor.

We Ask Your Prayers: *We pray for those whose thanks or needs are known to us.*

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

- John Adler, son of former BLC pastor Dallas Adler who died on 1/2
- Bob Paoni, father of Sherry & Jim Cook's son-in-law who died on 12/27
- Marjorie Miller who died on 12/20

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Joanne Goethals, mother of Vicki Beutel who is recovering from a recent stroke
- Bernice Stevens, mother of Kathy Moragne who is recovering after a recent hospitalization
- Anne, aunt of Marja Roney who is starting chemotherapy following a recent lung cancer diagnosis
- 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 or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers
 - Judy Buck, mother of Mary Osgood's friend
 - Walter Zagorski, father of Glen Zagorski
 - Olive Jameson, mother of Jackie Stivers
 - Waverly, friend of Phyllis Stock
 - Clare & George, parents of Waverly

★ **We Pray for Each Other** – Each Sunday in worship we give thanks and offer prayers for those in our community whose celebrations or needs are known to us. Requests for prayers are shared in our monthly prayer listing as well, with updates available the first Sunday of each month. If you have a prayer request for yourself, a family member, or friend, you can easily submit them digitally via the “pew card” at <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/>. Alternately they can be shared by contacting the church office or a pastor.

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

Calendar for week of January 10 – January 17

(Last updated on 1/6/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, January 10

Baptism of Our Lord

8:30 am Facebook

Livestream

Worship

9:45 am Zoom* Coffee & Crucial

Conversation hosted by the

Pastors

([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)

7:30 pm Zoom* LYO

([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, January 11

6:00 pm Virtual Youth Choir

([Join](#) or use ID 816 9461 2911)

6:30 pm BSA Troop 208

7:00 pm Zoom* GFL

Confirmation

([Join](#) or use ID 859 4816 8778)

Tuesday, January 12

BLC Office Closed**

10:00 am Worship Committee

Meeting

([Join](#) or use ID 821 5644 5330)

6:30 pm Zoom* Re-opening Team

([Join](#) or use ID 824 6235 3239)

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019

Wednesday, January 13

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study

([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)

3:00 pm Education Planning

Meeting

6:00 pm Zoom* Mission & Social

Concerns

6:30 pm Chancel Bells

7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir

Rehearsal

([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, January 14

Friday, January 15

30 Hour Famine 1/15 – 1/17

No Folk Group Today

3:00 pm Dulcimer Group

Rehearsal

Saturday, January 16

30 Hour Famine 1/15 – 1/17

9:15 am Property Committee

Sunday, January 17

30 Hour Famine 1/15 – 1/17

8:30 am Facebook

Livestream

Worship

9:45 am Zoom* Coffee & Crucial

Conversation hosted by the

Pastors

([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)

6:30 pm Zoom* Story time for

pre-K through 5th grade and

families

([Join](#) or use ID 815 7566 9638)

7:30 pm Zoom* LYO

([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

****Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office** on Tuesdays from January 5 – March 10. Pastor Amy remains available on Tuesdays and can be reached by phone when she is not in the office.

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 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.**

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



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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