

 WORSHIP

 GROW

 LIVE

 CARE

 SERVE

JANUARY 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



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 and is also printed on the back of the worship bulletin.

Rules or Relationship?

Do you want to be right, or do you want to have a relationship? When a teenager spends \$200 on the world's coolest sunglasses is it the time to comment on the foolishness of the purchase or to simply smile and nod? In 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, the Paul addressed the question: may the people of Corinth eat meat sacrificed to idols? Paul seems to suggest that it does not really matter where the meat comes from. What matters is how the people you care about feel about that meat. Will it challenge their faith? Will it become a stumbling block to the weak? Do you want to be right, or do you want to have a relationship?

This theme continues in the gospel. The laws prohibiting work on the sabbath carry deep meaning for many people of faith, and yet on this sabbath Jesus rebukes an unclean spirit and frees a man. Jesus chooses to care for the man and to free him, rather than worry over the details of the law. In this instance Jesus is not condemned for his choice, as he will be later. But his fame begins to spread throughout the region. That too will later prove dangerous, yet it is also a sign of the evangelical nature of the faith. This is not a private faith, held closely and kept hidden. Rather it is an outgoing faith spread from person to person throughout the world.

To this day people continue to place barriers and restrictions on the faith. Congregations do this in intentional ways, for example, by setting a minimum age for receiving holy communion. The benefits of these restrictions can be debated, but at least they are chosen intentionally. Churches also create unintentional barriers. Consider the clothes people wear to church each Sunday. Are many people wearing suits and ties? Do you see blue jeans? Do people wear shorts in the summer? What are some of the ways people might be kept from a relationship with Jesus by the barriers we create?

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](#)

Worship the Living God

Lessons for Sunday: 1/31: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111, Mark 1:21-28 *God's love is freeing*

Lessons for Sunday, 2/7: Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, Mark 1:29-39 *God's love is purposeful*

The bulletin artwork for our current theme was created by Madeleine and Isabel Hoffman. We give thanks for their

willingness to share their artistic gifts with us. If you, or a member of your household has a gift to share with the Bethlehem community please contact the office or let Pastor Amy know.

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

Grow in Faith and Discipleship

★ **NEW THIS MONTH! Story Time for Pre-K to 5th Grade students and their families!** Join us at 6:30 pm on Sunday, **January 31** via Zoom to hear a story and share in a time of connection and conversation! Visit our [Calendar of Events](#) to join! If you can't make the Zoom call, be sure to watch your email this week for a link to the story to watch at your convenience. Contact the church office with any questions!

★ **Share in BLC's Crucial Conversation at 9:45 am on Sunday (January 31)!** Pastor Amy and Pastor Hoffman will lead us in the final conversation in this Crucial Conversation series. Over the last three weeks the resources (listed below) have invited us to think about our place in the world at large. This week we spend time focusing on our own Bethlehem Lutheran culture. To prepare for this week, spend some time reflecting on these questions:

- What unspoken rules exist at Bethlehem?
- What signs and symbols are most familiar and beloved at BLC?
- When did you feel like you belong at Bethlehem? When did you feel like an outsider?
- When have you shared power at Bethlehem? When have you felt powerless at Bethlehem?

We'll end our time on Sunday identifying the next steps to expand this conversation and continue this work.

Join the Zoom session on Sunday, January 31 at 9:45 am through our [Calendar of Events](#).

Haven't attended yet? Don't have time to prepare? Your voice and presence are still welcome!

[Click here](#) to view the resources that have been referenced in previous weeks (now available on BLC's website).

Prepare for the next Adult BOOK/BIBLE STUDY, *Love Is The Way* beginning Sunday February 14. You can purchase a book through a book seller of your choosing such as Amazon, Barnes Noble, Target, etc. Please let David know if you plan to attend. You can contact him through his email, dgerha4616@aol.com. If you need assistance getting a book to participate in this study, please let Pr. Amy or the church office know! Additional details in next week's Star.

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

★ **Men's Lunch (virtual)** In lieu of the men's breakfast and lunch gatherings during this time, please join the virtual men's lunch at 1 pm via Zoom at on the first and third Wednesday of the month. The next one is on Wednesday, **February 3**. See the [calendar of events](#) on BLC's website for the info to join each time as well as the ID number for the meeting! For further information, contact Jim Cook at jcookiee@gmail.com or Marshall Kurfiss at mnkurfiss@yahoo.com

★ **SCOUT SUNDAY... on February 7 (next Sunday!),** we will recognize Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA and their leaders with virtual participation in worship. For more than 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America has introduced leadership skills and character development through community service and an outdoor program that is second to none. In addition to the Explorer and Venture groups which have provided programs for girls for decades, girls are now joining Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA by the thousands. BLC has sponsored a girl troop for two years and welcomes girls of 11 - 17 years on Tuesday evenings in the Narthex at 6:30 pm. For more information is available at fairport2019.mytroop.us. A Scout is Reverent.

Care for One Another

★ **Help spread the love by sending Valentine Greetings...** Each year, we like to remember our homebound members and friends with Valentines. This year, we'd like to extend the reach of these greetings to others in the congregation – including the youngest in our community! We have a list of folks all ages who we think would love to hear from you! To facilitate this, we have created an online sign-up page. This is a simple way to extend the love of God to others in the Bethlehem community. If you would be willing to send valentines this year, please sign up and we will get a list of names to you! We can also provide valentines, labels and postage if you wish. Everyone really appreciates being remembered, and it's a nice way to show our LOVE. As always, you are also encouraged to send your own greetings to the BLC community members that you are thinking of and missing! Visit <https://blcfairport.org/valentines-day-2021/> or contact the church office to sign up!



Serve Our Neighbor

M&SC stands for the Mission and Social Concerns Committee. The next M&SC meeting is **February 10, 2021**, at 6 pm via Zoom. If you would like to attend these interesting and active meetings but are not part of the committee, please contact Beth Walker at rbowsend@rochester.rr.com for the zoom link.

★ **Lutheran World Hunger:** Throughout Lent and the Easter Season M&SC will offer ways to savor and share simple foods, donate items to a local mini food pantry, and contribute to Lutheran World Hunger. MORE about all of this is forthcoming.

★ **NEEDED! 13 families, groups, or individuals to be *Hunger Activists*** for one week each. Why so many weeks? Because hunger never ends.

Hunger Activists will collect 20 or more of the designated weekly items. You can purchase, ask for donations, or use other legal, creative methods for obtaining the items. Deliver the items anytime during your week to the mini-food pantry by the maintenance shed in the Pines of Perinton.

Scared of this unknown activity? Feeling you can't do it? Not sure about venturing into the Pines? Great! Time to trust in the Holy Spirit and push the limits! You will be glad you did! Here is how to sign up as a Hunger Activist and claim your week:

Choose a week.

- Feb 7 – soup
- Feb 14 – soup
- Feb 21 – toilet paper
- Feb 28 – toilet paper
- March 7 – shampoo or soap
- March 14 – dry or canned black, pinto or garbanzo beans
- March 21 – clothes soap
- March 28 – feminine supplies
- April 4 – cans of vegetables
- April 11 – peanut butter
- April 18 – soup
- April 25 – soup
- May 2 – toilet paper
- May 9 – toilet paper
- May 16 – Anything!

Sign up and follow the directions at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080848A8A92CA0FE3-hunger> or contact Beth Walker (315) 945-5539 or rbowsend@rochester.rr.com

★ **Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) Now Accepting Applications -**

Are you a young adult (ages 21-29) who is passionate about serving God's people in the world? Applications are due **February 15** for service beginning in August 2016. Find out more at <http://www.elca.org/YAGM>

Did you know the ELCA has an advocacy arm which advocates on behalf of Lutherans at the federal level about care of God's creation, vulnerable migrant children and families, hunger, gender based violence, and racial and economic justice? See more at <http://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/february-advocacy-update/>

Community Mission News:

Coffee Connection The Greenhouse Café, 2271 E. Main St. Rochester will be closing its doors January 29 and is moving operations to Marketplace Mall. Coffee will be served from a place within the food court and soon in an additional kiosk in the center of the mall. If you wish to contribute to the cost of moving and building up the space, please visit [Coffee Connection \(ourcoffeconnection.org\)](http://ourcoffeconnection.org). The location in the South Wedge continues to be open.

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.

Resolve of Greater Rochester – providing services virtually.

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!

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.



Council News

★ **Core Ministry Team (CMT)** brings together the leaders from each ministry area (Worship, Grow, Live, Care, Serve) on a monthly basis to coordinate and collaborate on the ministries that bring our congregation's vision and mission to life! The group typically meets the first Thursday of the month and the next meeting is **February 4** at 10:00 am via Zoom.

★ **Update on Council Roles:**

At the January Council meeting, the following slate of candidates was confirmed for 2021

- Council President – Rick Walker
- Vice President – Lisa Meetze
- Vice President/Treasurer – Glenda Lockard
- Secretary – Liana Thibault
- Financial Secretary – Dave Wideman

Other assignments include:

- Care of Property – Brian Edwards
- Personnel Committee – Margie Gaul
- Finance Committee – Andy Gates
- Care of Talent – Lisa Rosenbauer and Mike Higgins

Time Away: Pastor Amy will be on vacation, January 29 – February 7. Pastor Amy has made arrangements for emergency coverage and pastoral leadership during this time. Continue to contact the church office (585.223.0534) or reach out through the Pastoral Care Emergency line (Option 1) if you have a need for immediate pastoral care.

2020 Giving Statements: All of the 2020 giving statements have been mailed out. If you have any questions or concerns about your statement, please contact the BLC Financial Secretary, Dave Wideman at dwideman5@gmail.com or 585-309-3618.

2021 offering envelopes: Offering envelopes remain available in the Narthex. Contact Beth in the church office or Dave Wideman (BLC Financial Secretary) to make arrangements for pick up as needed. Also please let us know if you no longer wish to receive physical envelopes.

Community News

★ **A Conversation with Rev. Lewis Stewart - A Passionate Rochester Human and Civil Rights Leader**

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 - 7 PM

Sponsored by St. Lukes Episcopal Church - Fairport, N.Y.

Zoom ID Codes Supplied After On-Line Registration:

Web Link - <http://bit.ly/ZoomRegistration2-24>

Sign up by 2/19/21 Rev. Lewis Stewart is an ordained Baptist Minister - a graduate of Colgate Rochester Bexley Hall/Crozier Theological Seminary. He is president of UCLM (United Christian Leadership Ministry), founded in 2013 by African American pastors and clergy. UCLM serves the Rochester area by promoting social justice, improved community-police relations, and criminal justice reform. Rev. Stewart will introduce us to UCLM, as well as ways we can serve as partners/advocates/ volunteers with the organization.

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:

- Anne Heinonen, aunt of Marja Roney who died on 1/24
- Nancy Bornemann who died on 1/23
- Ron Miller, brother of former BLC Member Bob Miller who died on 1/19

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Cathy, niece of Ruth Kurtz who is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer
- Bernice Stevens, mother of Kathy Moragne who is recovering after a recent hospitalization
- Shekeria and Dimitri Cash, siblings who were abducted from their foster home on 1/18. We give thanks for their safe return and continue our prayers of healing for the whole family.
- David Meier, brother of Ron Meier, who is recovering from carotid artery surgery on 1/18
- 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
 - Waverly, friend of Phyllis Stock
 - Bethany Trippi
 - Ethan, grandson of Kay Slattery

[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 31 – February 7

(Last updated on 1/27/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, January 31

Pastor Amy Time Away*

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)

Monday, February 1

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, February 2

BLC Office Closed**

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019

Wednesday, February 3

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
1:00 pm Zoom* Men's Lunch
([Join](#) or use ID 874 8853 3240)
3:00 pm Education Planning
Meeting
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, February 4

10:00 am Zoom* CMT
([Join](#) or use ID 825 5536 5823)

Friday, February 5

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

Saturday, February 6

Sunday, February 7

Scout Sunday

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship followed by Holy
Communion – the sanctuary
will be open for people to
receive communion until 11 am
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

***Pr. Amy will have time away** beginning Friday, January 29 and continuing through Sunday, February 7. Pastor Amy has arranged for coverage for pastoral emergencies (i.e. death, family or individual crisis). Please contact the church office and leave a message on the Pastoral Care line. Your request will be forwarded to the pastoral leader on call.

****Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office** on Tuesdays through 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!)



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



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