



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

2-WEEK STAR FOR FEBRUARY 7 & FEBRUARY 14, 2021

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany & Transfiguration Sunday*



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.*

### God Heals Persons and Communities

When Jesus heals us, we are empowered to serve others. While at first glance it might seem that Jesus' healing of Peter's mother-in-law was self-serving, on further reflection we see the same result in nearly all of his signs and miracles. The object of Jesus' compassion now has new responsibilities. In the very next chapter a paralytic lowered through the ceiling is raised, only to become the center of a religious controversy (Mark 2:3-12), as was the man who lay by the pool of Beth-zatha for thirty-eight years (John 5:2-15). When Jesus calms the storm (Mark 4:35-41) the disciples have to row the rest of the way! Any meaningful encounter with Jesus will result in our being changed, which in turn alters the way we see our relationship to the needs of others and the world.

Hard economic times, natural disasters, and divisive, party strife can make us feel helpless and hopeless, as if we have been abandoned by God. Even the church—local congregations as well as denominations—may feel fear and panic in the face of declining numbers and revenues, loss of loyalty from members, indifference or hostility from the surrounding culture, and internal sniping among factions. The exiled people of Israel in Babylon experienced all of this and more, so our condition is neither unique nor beyond the reach of our God. Isaiah 40:21-31 in the NRSV begins "Have you not known? Have you not heard?" Eugene Peterson, in *The Message*, translates this idea as "Have you not been paying attention? Have you not been listening?" There is some irony indeed that God's church, entrusted with God's salvation history and the gospel, still panics, still doubts and worries, still feels like it is up to us to save the church. We indeed are "clay jars" (2 Cor. 4:7)—carrying the message but not understanding, preaching salvation but not believing that God cares or will act to save. We live Isaiah 40 every day.

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

**Lessons for Sunday, 2/14:** Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-10 *God's love is revealing*

★ **Two Week STAR:** Please note, this publication is intentionally a 2-week STAR. Watch your mailbox for the next quarterly mailer which will be sent on 2/12! The content you see on 2/7 and 2/14 will be inclusive of details through February 21 and will be the same information.

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

★ **Celebrate communion on February 7...** Following the communion liturgy (online!), you are invited to make your way to Bethlehem before 11 am to receive the Sacrament. Enter by the front main entrance to the sanctuary (the Perrin Street accessible entrance will also be available for those who need to use the lift). Ushers will direct you once you arrive. We ask all participants to wear a mask and practice physical distancing. We have taken every precaution to limit physical contact in our communion practice. [View Pastor Amy's video for more details!](#)

★ How do you see Jesus? Where do you see Jesus? If you're a visual artist and wish to share art of where you see Jesus to correspond with our Lenten theme, we'd love to share your art. Artists of all ages are welcome! Please contact the office or let Pastor Amy know.

## Grow in Faith and Discipleship

★ **Mail Call!** Children pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be receiving a coloring page and Children's bulletins for the season of Lent in the mail this week. If your child does not receive a mailing and you'd like to be sure you're on our list, please contact the church office!

★ **Continuing in February & March! Story Time for Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students and their families** – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 6:30 pm. We will continue to host virtual Story times. Hear a story and share in a time of connection and conversation! Upcoming dates include 2/14, 2/28, 3/14 & 3/28.

**BOOK/BIBLE STUDY, *Love Is The Way*** begins **Sunday February 14**. David Gerhardt will lead this study using the book, *Love Is The Way, Holding On To Hope In Troubling Times*, by Bishop Michael Curry, who is the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. In *Love Is The Way*, Bishop Curry shares a message of hope as we follow the way of Jesus, living a life of love and grace towards others. The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing our world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions. Only love has the power to move us forward to reconciliation, healing and renewal. Such love comes from God and God empowers us to then live this way of love. This 6-week class will take place through Zoom on Sundays (**2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 3/14, 3/21, and 3/28**). *The time on 2/14 will be 11 am to avoid conflicting with the Quarterly Dialogue. All following dates will be at 9:45 am.* 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](mailto:dgerha4616@aol.com). If you need assistance getting a book to participate in this study, please let Pr. Amy or the church office know!

**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

**SCOUT SUNDAY...** on **February 7** 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](http://fairport2019.mytroop.us). A Scout is Reverent.

★ **Thank you...** The LYO wants to thank everyone for their generous donations, support, prayers, and participation in the 30 Hour Famine Experience. As of 1/25, BLC raised \$1,599.45 for ELCA World Hunger. That is DOUBLE our goal, we will be able to purchase 2 family farms. This amazing gift will help end the cycle of poverty these families. The LYO also collected 2 car loads of food and toiletry goods. Thank you everyone for your generosity!

## Care for One Another

★ **'Tis the Season for... Kings Cake!** If you would like the recipe used for the Kings Cake that was served last February during Coffee Hour, email [gerryannwestcott@gmail.com](mailto:gerryannwestcott@gmail.com) and it will be sent to you! It's not a difficult recipe, just a lot of very basic ingredients!

**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! We have a list of folks all ages who we think would love to hear from you! This is a simple way to extend the love of God to others in the

Bethlehem community. As always, you are also encouraged to send your own greetings to the BLC community members that you are thinking of and missing! *If you missed the sign up and would still like addresses to send out some valentines, please contact the church office!*



## 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](mailto: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. Visit <https://blcfairport.org/world-hunger-appeal/> for recipes, calendars and monthly updates!

**NEEDED! 12 more 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! Take a picture of yourself by the cupboard and post it on the BLC family and friends Facebook page if you like! Don't want to be responsible for a week? Contribute by doing a contactless delivery of items at the homes of hunger activists who have signed up (you may want to email or call first!). Think of it as a reverse scavenger hunt!

Sign up as a Hunger Activist and claim your week: Choose a week to 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](mailto:rbowsend@rochester.rr.com)

- Feb 7 – soup
- Feb 14 – soup
- Feb 21 – toilet paper
- Feb 28 – toilet paper
- March 7 – shampoo or soap
- March 14 – dried or cans of black, pinto or garbanzo beans – CarolynAnn Straub
- March 21 – clothes soap
- March 28 – feminine supplies
- April 4 – cans of vegetables – The Allen Family
- April 11 – peanut butter – Desiree Wolfe
- April 18 – soup
- April 25 – soup
- May 2 – toilet paper
- May 9 – toilet paper
- May 16 – Anything!

### Looking for a good read to follow the Crucial Conversations on Racial Justice?

*Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman. Howard Washington Thurman (November 18, 1899 – April 10, 1981) was an American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. Thurman's theology of radical nonviolence influenced and shaped a generation of civil rights activists, and he was a key mentor to leaders within the civil rights movement, including Martin Luther King Jr. Download free at [Jesus And The Disinherited : Howard Thurman : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#) Also available in paperback on Amazon.

**ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)** Has cancelled the current season due to uncertainty due to COVID and restrictions on travel.

### Save the dates!

- Friday, **September 17, 2021** Advent House Golf Tournament
- Friday, **November 5, 2021** Advent House 2021 Annual Dinner Dance and Auction

## Community Mission News:

**House of Mercy** is open with restricted availability. 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

★ The **Re-Opening Team** continues its work on Tuesday, **February 9** 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

★ **Quarterly Dialogue, Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 9:45 am via Zoom.** We gather to receive a brief update about our ongoing ministry at Bethlehem before breaking into groups for deeper discussion. As we approach a year in this time of suspended in-person activities we want to hear from you:

- What have you appreciated about our community life since March 2020? In what ways has the BLC community supported you in your faith over the last year?
- What has been missing for you in community life since March 2020? Where do you long for deeper connection?

★ **Participate in a Conversation about Upstate New York Synod Values and Priorities:** This year we will be calling a bishop to serve as the leader of this synod. We will expect the bishop to bring their own ideas and plans, dreams and visions. It will also be important that we can provide a collection of voices and thoughts to the process. Every member of the synod is invited into conversation about the values and priorities of our work together. We will do this through listening events and/or submitting answers to an electronic survey. At each listening event there will be a time for open conversation with some core questions to frame the time of conversation and reflection. The responses from each of the forums and the written form will be made available in mid-March. They may be used to help a candidate for bishop in personal discernment. They may also help the current leaders of the synod in their work. Please consider participating in the conversation via the **listening event** or the **survey**. Schedule for Listening Events: **FOR LAY PEOPLE ONLY (choose 1):** February 10, 7 pm and February 16, 10 am. To read more and sign up, visit: [Values and Priorities Listening Event and Survey](#)

**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.

### 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

## Community News

★ The Upstate New York Synod has a number of offerings that are open to people who wish to explore their faith with others across the synod. On Saturday, **February 13**, there will be an online retreat to mark the beginning of Lent. This retreat is open to **ALL**. Those who attended the Advent retreat found it was a good way to mark the new season with spiritual connection and setting intentions. Pastor Tonya Eza will be leading a workshop on **Biblical Storytelling on Saturday, February 26**. by the end of the 90-minute session you will have new skill to tell a Bible story by heart. There are a few spots in the course using the book **Earth Our Original Monastery: Cultivating Wonder and Gratitude through Intimacy with Nature** as a guide to the spiritual practice of creation care. Learn more or register for one or more of these courses at <https://upstatenysynod.org/faithful-learning-and-teaching-together-flatt>.

### 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 lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:*

- The Miller family (Kathryn, Christopher, and big sister Blakely) upon the arrival of Cooper James on 2/1
- Mike Higgins who retired from the Navy on 1/31

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

- Bernice Stevens, mother of Kathy Moragne who died on 2/1
- Cathy, niece of Ruth Kurtz who died on 1/30
- Anne Heinonen, aunt of Marja Roney who died on 1/24
- Nancy Bornemann who died on 1/23

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

- Mark Figura, friend of Mary Osgood, who is being treated for a mass on his spine
- Don Raw, father of Kim Kulik who is recovering from pneumonia
- Joe Benjamin, husband of Donna Berner's friend who will be undergoing testing for health issues
- 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
  - Ken, brother-in-law of Linda Montalbano
  - Waverly, friend of Phyllis Stock
  - Bethany Trippi
  - Ethan, grandson of Kay Slattery

★ **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 or an update of an existing prayer need 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 February long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!



## Calendar for week of February 7 – February 14

(Last updated on 2/3/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### 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)

### Monday, February 8

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 9

#### **BLC Office Closed\*\***

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019  
6:30 pm Zoom\* Re-Opening Team Meeting  
([Join](#) or use ID 824 6235 3239)

### Wednesday, February 10

9:30 am Zoom\* Bible Study  
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)  
3:00 pm Education Planning Meeting  
6:00 pm Mission & Social Concerns  
6:30 pm Chancel Bells  
7:30 pm Zoom\* Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

### Thursday, February 11

6:30 pm Zoom\* BLC Officers  
([Join](#) or use ID 836 8734 2559)

### Friday, February 12

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

### Saturday, February 13

9:15 am Property Committee

### Sunday, February 14

8:30 am Facebook Livestream  
Worship  
9:45 am Zoom\* Quarterly Dialogue  
([Join](#) or use ID 843 6583 5221)  
11:00 am Zoom\* Book/Bible Study  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 3566 5634)  
6:30 pm Zoom\* Story time for pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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](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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## Calendar for week of February 14 – February 21

(Last updated on 2/3/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, February 14

8:30 am Facebook  
Livestream  
Worship  
9:45 am Zoom\* Quarterly  
Dialogue  
([Join](#) or use ID 843 6583 5221)  
11:00 am Zoom\* Book/Bible  
Study (*NOTE THE NEW TIME*)  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 3566 5634)  
6:30 pm Zoom\* Story time for  
pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and  
families  
([Join](#) or use ID 815 7566 9638)  
7:30 pm Zoom\* LYO  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

### Monday, February 15

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 16

**BLC Office Closed\*\***  
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019

### Wednesday, February 17

**Ash Wednesday**  
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 No Chancel Bells  
7:00 pm Zoom\* Midweek Lenten  
Worship Series (details to  
follow)  
7:30 pm Zoom\* Chancel Choir  
Rehearsal  
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

### Thursday, February 18

6:30 pm Zoom\* Church Council  
([Join](#) or use ID 848 4548 0587)

### Friday, February 19

**Pastor's Sabbath**  
10:00 am Folk Group Rehearsal  
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group  
Rehearsal

### Saturday, February 20

### Sunday, February 21

8:30 am Facebook  
Livestream Worship  
9:45 am Zoom\* Book/Bible  
Study (*NOTE THE NEW TIME*)  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 3566 5634)  
7:30 pm Zoom\* LYO  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

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**\*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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