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FEBRUARY 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY star



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

Today's reflection is taken from the **BLC Lenten Devotional** shared in Quarterly Mailer. If you did not receive a Quarterly Mailer in the mail or you would like additional paper copies of the devotional, please contact the church office. Consider reflecting each day during the season of Lent on one of the writings shared.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ...The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. - from Psalm 46 NIV.

Not too long ago, my husband David and I walked down a street in Wittenberg, Germany. As we rounded the corner of this historic road, my eyes immediately were drawn to the top of the tower of the Castle Church (known as the church where Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the door). The words encircling the top were written in German, but I knew them well. **Ein Feste Burg, ist unser Gott. A Mighty Fortress is our God!** I was surprised at the emotion I felt at seeing these words. I was standing on the road, trod frequently by Luther, himself. I imagined the pain that Luther endured as he walked through his own wilderness. His very life was endangered as he challenged the religious and political figures of the day. Seeing these words proclaimed boldly at the tower's peak is a witness to Luther's source of strength: The Lord Almighty. I am thankful for his conviction that the words of scripture be written in the language of the people, so that all may find hope, comfort, and peace, through God's Word, just as Luther did as he walked in his wilderness.

This past year, the people of this world have traveled through many wildernesses. I often lay awake at night, in my own personal wilderness, worrying about the pandemic and the suffering it has brought worldwide, the divisions in our country, and any personal issue I may be facing. During the dark of night, I often reflect on the scripture verses that my father would quote, especially Psalm 46 which sustained him in his final hours. I remember how my mother would share with me that singing hymns would comfort her as she faced widowhood. Sometimes, I silently "sing" my favorite hymns. I have found hope in my wilderness from the words from Luther's well-known hymn, **A Mighty Fortress is Our God.** I

am particularly drawn to the final words of this song. "Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The Kingdom's ours forever! God's promise to walk through the wilderness with me is a forever and unbroken promise. "This is most certainly true."

Marcia Gerhardt

God of Comfort and Might, we praise You that Your Kingdom is our dwelling place, now and for all eternity. AMEN.

★ 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](#)

**MIDWEEK OPPORTUNITIES
COMMUNITY ZOOM 7:00 PM WORSHIP
HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER**



Worship the Living God

★ **Lent 2021: We Wish to See Jesus** - This Lent, we turn our eyes upon Jesus and look for the places he appears in Scripture and ask where those places might be in our world today.

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.

Lessons for Sunday, 2/21: Psalm 25: 1-10; Mark 1:9-15 We see Jesus in the wilderness

Lessons for Sunday, 2/28: Psalm 22: 23-31; Mark 8:27-38 We see Jesus on the cross

★ **Lent 2021: Midweek Worship Opportunities**

Wednesdays in Lent – Created for Community at 7 pm on Zoom

This year for Lent, we will live out our community connections in a bigger way, by joining together with congregations across the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference over Zoom for a midweek Lenten series.

Drawing from the Sunday texts and stories from Mark's Gospel, we will reflect together on the various ways we are called to be community: with creation, with the saints, with our neighbor, with those on the margins, and with Christ. Each **Wednesday at 7 pm**, we will join in worship together around a different theme, led by pastors across the conference in a simple liturgy of word and prayer. At 7:30, those who wish, may continue with an option to grow deeper in community, either through conversation around the day's text, or through learning a new prayer practice that expands upon the week's theme.

In addition, each congregation will also participate in a shared commitment to address hunger relief or food insecurity in their local community. Look for opportunities to be a Hunger Activist at Bethlehem this Lent.

February 24: *In Community with Creation*

Worship led by: Pr. Aileen Robbins, Pr. Johanna Rehbaum, Sem. Lisa Frauens

Prayer practice: Praying in Color

Holden Evening Prayer

Worship and pray with Lutherans around the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference with this beloved liturgy. Each week a different congregation will lead the liturgy which we will share for you to listen to on your time frame. A link will be provided in the Tuesday Ready for Worship email each week.

★ **BLC Music Sunday: Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 16.** We will offer music of hope and praise to God primarily through music and celebrate the abundance of musical gifts God has given the Bethlehem community!



Grow in Faith and Discipleship

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

Midweek Bible Study: We come together weekly as we embark on a spiritual journey. Our goal is to seek understanding and nurture our faith in Christ together. Come anytime your schedule permits. The group meets weekly at 9:30 am on Wednesday mornings. The group will continue meeting and discuss the texts for each Sunday. Check the Calendar of Events to join or see the weekly calendar for login details! Questions - contact Bob Stolze at bob.stolze@rochester.rr.com.



Live Our Faith in Daily Life

★ **Holy Week Bags are coming!** Our Lenten plea – “We want to see Jesus!” – culminates in Holy Week, when we do see Jesus. This year, we want to see Jesus not only through a screen in our homes, but in tangible signs and practices throughout the week. Sign up through the church office by **March 3** for a Holy Week Bag, full of information and opportunities to experience and participate in Holy Week this year. <https://blcfairport.org/lent-2021/>

Book/Bible Study: Love Is The Way, Holding On To Hope In Troubling Times

February 21, 28 & March 14, 21, 28 at 9:45 am

David Gerhardt will lead a study via Zoom on this book by Bishop Michael Curry, 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. Please let David know if you plan to attend (dgerha4616@aol.com). If you need assistance getting a book to participate in this study, please let Pr. Amy or the church office know!



Care for One Another

★ **Simple Suppers** are just that – a simple meal of soup and bread! While we can't have the traditional shared meal on Wednesday evenings together in the fellowship hall this Lenten season, we encourage you to continue the tradition of Simple Suppers in your own home. Perhaps you could even share a **virtual** mealtime with BLC friends or family. View and print some favorite recipes through the [World Hunger Awareness and Appeal page](#) online! (Thanks to GerryAnn Westcott for including some of them in the Quarterly Mailer!) See the Serve Section for more details and links to cooking videos! Take a picture of your Simple Supper and share your favorite recipes in our BLC Friends and Family Facebook Group!

★ **Bill Antell shares** that he recently heard a word of thanks for taking food from BLC to the Food Shelf (and since it was following the 30 Hour Famine collection by LYO, it was a LOT of food to move – thanks Bill & Gunnar!) Bill has enjoyed helping transport donations from BLC to the Food Shelf for 30+ years!

★ **Thank You!** *Dear BLC friends: Thank you to the many of you who reached out in a variety of ways following the death of my Mom, Bernice Stevens. The agape love (thank you to our Sunday School book) and prayers are very much appreciated, and to be honest, needed. They will continue to sustain me in the weeks ahead. God's peace be with you all. Kathy Moragne*

★ **Thank you!** *A sincere thank you to Jennifer Wideman who has coordinated the grief mailings for BLC for so many years and provided an extension of our care and ongoing comfort to those who have lost loved ones. We are grateful for her faithful work in this ministry area.*

Opportunity: *We are looking for a new coordinator for the Grief Mailings. This is a job that can be done from your home and is a very specific need following the loss of a loved one. If you feel called to learn more about this or would like to explore other opportunities to volunteer your time and talents in the Bethlehem Community, please contact Pastor Amy or the church office!*



Serve Our Neighbor

M&SC stands for the Mission and Social Concerns Committee. The next M&SC meeting is **March 10, 2021**, at 6 pm via Zoom. We celebrate Julie Owen as she assumes leadership of the M&SC committee! We also give thanks to Beth Walker for seven (plus) years of service in leading the M&SC committee and sharing with our congregation her passion and knowledge of mission beyond the walls of Bethlehem. Beth Walker has agreed to step into the role of coordinator of Serve Ministries on the Core Ministry Team.

Save the dates!

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

Lutheran World Hunger: Throughout Lent and the Easter Season, M&SC will offer ways to learn more about and act on World Hunger. BLC's member contribution to World Hunger will be dedicated at the Synod Assembly in June.

- **Visit** <https://blcfairport.org/world-hunger-appeal/>
 - **Donate** through Tithe.ly or by check to BLC
 - **View** monthly calendars with recipes, prayers, activities, and reminders!
- **Watch** videos of some of the February recipes being made at:
 - Feb 21 Minestrone Soup <https://youtu.be/jUOLlOJDjo4>
 - Feb 24 Bran Muffins <https://youtu.be/rKfko1Cziao>

NEEDED, Hunger Activists! Only 3 more families, groups, or individuals for one week each. Hunger never ends. Thanks for helping!

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 those who have signed up (you may want to email or call first!). Think of it as a reverse scavenger hunt!**

Choose a week and sign up by visiting <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080848A8A92CA0FE3-hunger> or contact Beth Walker (315) 945-5539 or rbowsend@rochester.rr.com

- Feb 28 – toilet paper – Julie Owen
- March 7 – shampoo or soap – Pam Heiple
- March 14 – dried or canned black, pinto or garbanzo beans – CarolynAnn Straub
- March 21 – clothes soap – The Runke Family
- March 28 – feminine supplies – Amy and Hans Walter Peterson
- April 4 – cans of vegetables – The Allen Family
- April 11 – peanut butter – Desiree Wolfe
- April 18 – soup – Paulette Costanza
- April 25 – soup - Ruth & Jeff Hedin
- May 2 – toilet paper – Marcy Adams
- May 9 – toilet paper – Lil Lassen Ward
- **May 16 – Anything!**

Opportunities to learn more about racial justice.

1. Thursday, **February 25, 2021** 7 pm *A Conversation with Dr. Carol Anderson* [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
During this moderated discussion, Dr Carol Anderson, chair of African American Studies at Emory University, will trace the evolution of voter suppression tactics used to disenfranchise generations of Black Americans and disable true democracy.
2. Thursday, **February 25, 2021** 9 am – 4 pm, *NYS Ecumenical Advocacy Day of Learning an Action* Sponsored by the NYS Council of Churches Participants will spend the morning with a grounding in the historic social gospel movement and strategies for community organizing before breaking out into groups to learn more about important issues affecting our state including Budget Justice, Criminal Justice Reform, Environmental Issues, Healthcare & COVID and Housing and Homelessness. The event is free but please register here: [2021 New York State Ecumenical Advocacy Day Registration - Action Network](#)

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

Isabel Wilkerson *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* Available in paperback, hardcover, Kindle or Audiobook [Caste \(Oprah's Book Club\): The Origins of Our Discontents: Wilkerson, Isabel: 9780593230251: AmazonSmile: Books](#)

Isabel Wilkerson *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* Available in paperback, hardcover, Kindle and Audiobook [The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration: Wilkerson, Isabel: 8580001042800: AmazonSmile: Books](#)

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 23** 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

★ **BLC Quarter 1 Dialogue Summary:** The theme of the February 14, 2021 Quarterly Dialogue was clear; BLC has much to be grateful for in this time of uncertainty. The congregation is extremely appreciative of the time, energy, and dedication of the Pastors, Staff, and countless volunteers who continue to work behind the scenes while we can't be physically together. Since last March we've embraced technology. This has allowed us to continue worshipping every week, stay connected to each other, and reach many others who wouldn't normally be able to attend worship at BLC. Sunday School, Adult Education, and many other groups are continuing to meet and build relationships through technology. We've also bolstered our relationship with the other congregations in our Conference through shared services, education, and activities. While we are thankful for what we achieved over the last year, we're also looking forward to what the future holds for BLC. We long to be able to gather in person again, enjoying the music in the sanctuary, sharing coffee and donuts, and hugging each other on Sunday mornings. Yet we recognize the need to do so safely and continue to meet people where they are. We will reflect on all that we've learned over the past year and work to incorporate the best of the old and the new normal over the coming months. Most of all, we're thankful for the support and patience of the BLC congregation.
God's Peace, Liana Thibault

★ **CMT Welcomes a new leader:** Beth Walker has agreed to step into the Leadership role for Serve on the Core Ministry Team. (See the Serve Section for more information on new leadership of the Mission & Social Concerns Committee)

★ **The Livestream Team is Growing:** Over the next several weeks, the team that brings you the worship broadcast each week will be adding and training new members. If you have an affinity for using complex software and have availability on Sunday mornings, we are interested in having you join the team. Contact us at livestreaming@blcfairport.org.

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. Pastor Tonya Eza will be leading a workshop on **Biblical Storytelling** on **Saturday, February 27**. 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, NY

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:

- Bernice Stevens, mother of Kathy Moragne who died on 2/1
- Cathy, niece of Ruth Kurtz who died on 1/30

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Riley, nephew of Kathy Moragne
- Milani, 14-month-old granddaughter of Don Groff's niece who had surgery for a benign brain tumor.
- Jim Cook who is facing several health challenges.
- Jim Peterson, father of Hans Walter-Peterson, who begins a new chemotherapy treatment
- Evelyn & Willard Ekegren (parents of Kay Slattery) as Evelyn recovers from a fall and they prepare for a transition
- Maria Turco, friend of Neil Vokes whose cancer has spread
- Waverly, friend of Phyllis Stock as she begins dialysis
- 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

[Click here to view and print the February 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.
Visit www.blcfairport.org and to sign up for reminders and special announcements (including the STAR!)



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



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

Calendar for week of February 21 – February 28

(Last updated on 2/17/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, February 21

First Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Book/Bible
Study (**NOTE TIME**)
([Join](#) or use ID 869 8659 4311)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, February 22

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 23

BLC Office Closed**

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

Wednesday, February 24

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
3:00 pm Education Planning
Meeting
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:00 pm Zoom* Midweek Lenten
Worship Series
([Join](#) or use ID 837 4022 0666)
8:00 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, February 25

Friday, February 26

Pastor's Sabbath

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

Saturday, February 27

Sunday, February 28

Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Book/Bible
Study
([Join](#) or use ID 869 8659 4311)
11:00 am – 1 pm Pickup
Sweetheart Sale Orders at the
District Lot
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 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.**
