

 WORSHIP

 GROW

 LIVE

 CARE

 SERVE

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

Second 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 the 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.*

When you pass through the waters I will be with you. - Isaiah 43:2

I was very young, not yet 30. I had been married 3 years when my husband told me he didn't love me anymore and he wanted a divorce. I laughed, thinking he was joking, but he wasn't. We separated and were divorced 2 years later. Luckily, there were no children. But there were friends and family that did not understand, and were very hurt and upset. "They are your friends", my now ex-husband said.

After he told me he wanted a divorce, I called my parents. My father told me "you aren't going anywhere. If he wants to leave, let him leave." My father was truly my father, strong, calm, and what I needed at that time.

I had very good friends who suggested I seek out some legal advice, which I did. That was also what I needed at that time. And my friends let me just come over, sit until I wanted to go home. They would feed me and just be there for me without judgment or questions.

I felt like my heart had been ripped from my chest. I was in shock for 2 months. I went to work as a nurse, and was able to minister to people in pain and who suffered losses like I hadn't before. It is amazing how God uses our difficulties for the good of others, and us!

My church family accepted me as if I had done nothing wrong, when I felt so wrong. I had a place to be loved and accepted, and to participate in God's work. What a blessing!

This was so many years ago. And the pain has lessened, but I still get angry and resentful at times. I didn't have children, and I did not remarry, but there are other blessings. I've been able to be part of the beginnings of Advent House, I was able to travel to Zimbabwe. And I've had lots of other travel as well. God has provided for me in so many ways with wonderful friends, a good job, and loving family! And He has used me to reach out to those in need and those needing love and acceptance. I am so very blessed! God is able to use our pain to grow us, and serve Him in ways we never would imagine without the pain.

Lisa Rosenbauer

Heavenly Father, despite the pain and anxiety I feel and am going through at this time, I ask that You would use it and me to bear witness to Your love, forgiveness, and acceptance in this world. Amen.

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

Worship the Living God

**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**

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

Lessons for Sunday, 3/7: Psalm 19;-John 2:13-22 We see Jesus in the temple

★ **Celebrate communion on March 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!](#) *If you or a loved one would like to commune but can't make your way to BLC, please let Pastor Amy know.*

★ **Lent 2021: Midweek Worship Opportunities** – (visit <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> to view)

There are *two separate midweek Lenten opportunities* for you to participate in this year.

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.

March 3: In Community with the Saints

Worship led by: Pr. Amy Walter-Peterson, Pr. Debbie Johnson, Pr. Andrew Gookin
Prayer practice: Praying the Psalms

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. The week of February 28 the liturgy is led by Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

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

★ **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, **March 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 Marshall Kurfiss at mnkurfiss@yahoo.com

Reserve a Holy Week Kit for your household by March 3! 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 Kit, full of information and opportunities to experience and participate in Holy Week this year. <https://blcfairport.org/lent-2021/>

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 (Thanks to GerryAnn Westcott for including some of them in the Quarterly Mailer!) through the [World Hunger Awareness and Appeal page](#) online! 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.*

Serve Our Neighbor

M&SC stands for the Mission and Social Concerns Committee. The next M&SC meeting is **March 10, 2021**, at 5:45 pm via Zoom. We celebrate Julie Owen as she assumes leadership of the M&SC committee!

Lutheran World Hunger: Throughout Lenten and the Easter Seasons, 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:
 - February 21 Minestrone Soup <https://youtu.be/jUOLlOJDjo4>
 - February 24 Bran Muffins <https://youtu.be/rKfko1Cziao>

Yay for Hunger Activists! Families, groups, or individuals have signed up for one week each. Hunger never ends. Thanks for helping! Due to overwhelming interest, a second sign up has been created to allow a second family or individual to *also* provide 20 items a week. Double the impact! **Sign up at the link to be the SECOND Hunger Activist for a week.** [M&SC: Hunger Activists 2 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com). Be sure to scroll all the way to the bottom of the sign-up page to complete your reservation.

Each Hunger Activist 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.

To find the cupboard: Enter by either Pines of Perinton entrance (Rt 250 or Winton Rd) and stay on the road that loops around the apartments. Look for the outside BLUE wood and chicken wire mini cupboard by the maintenance shed. It is open 24/7.

Take a picture of yourself by the cupboard and post it on the BLC family and friends Facebook page if you like! **You can contribute by doing a contactless delivery of items to the homes of those who have signed up (you may want to email or call first). Think of it as a reverse scavenger hunt!**

- Feb 28 – toilet paper – #1 Julie Owen
- March 7 – shampoo or soap – #1 Pam Heiple
- March 14 – dried or canned black, pinto or garbanzo beans – #1 CarolynAnn Straub
- March 21 – clothes soap – #1 The Runke Family
- March 28 – feminine supplies – #1 Amy and Hans Walter Peterson
- April 4 – cans of vegetables – #1 The Allen Family
- April 11 – peanut butter – #1 Desiree Wolfe
- April 18 – soup – #1 Paulette Costanza, #2 Bob and Phyllis Stock
- April 25 – soup – #1 Ruth and Jeff Hedin
- May 2 – toilet paper – #1 Marcy Adams
- May 9 – toilet paper – #1 Lil Lassen Ward
- May 16 – Anything! – #1 GerryAnn Westcott

Contact Beth Walker (315) 945-5539 or rbowsend@rochester.rr.com with questions or help.

PBS special to learn about the development of the Black church in America and how it was a lifeline during times of trial. [The Black Church \(pbs.org\)](https://www.pbs.org)

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](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0735219338)

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](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0735219338)

Thank you:

To the people of God at Bethlehem,

As a member of Synod Council, I am writing to thank you for your continued support of our shared mission. In 2020, leaders across the synod participated in synod sponsored programs. Seventeen congregational councils (100 leaders) gained skill and knowledge in Leadership Effectiveness training. Five congregations learned more about a culture of generosity, with measurable results. You are a partner in these success stories, and I thank you! Pastor Gail Wolling.

Dear Advent House Friends,

Your support of Advent House has truly been a blessing to those whom we serve. With your support we are able to serve the needs of our Residents and their loved ones with no cost to them. Your generosity is an integral part of this ministry and an affirmation of the dignity of the dying and the living. Sincerely, Glenda Hastings, Director



Council News

★ Preparing for a Return to In-Person Worship

In the past year, there have been a lot of changes throughout the world, our country and even here at BLC. We went from an in-person only church to going virtual for almost everything in a very short time. With the hope that the vaccine brings and the lower levels of Covid-19, the re-opening committee is working diligently for how and when BLC will be able to provide more opportunities for in-person worship. We don't yet have a date, but we are working toward that reality. As we envision how to accommodate both in-person and virtual worshippers, we want to ensure that BLC members and friends have similar experiences whether we are seated in a pew or in our homes. The goal is to allow everyone who wishes to participate in worship an opportunity to do so. BLC has been researching ways to leverage technology to make this a reality. So changes are coming! BLC will be starting the use of video displays in the sanctuary when we reopen. The video displays will allow worship to include some of the things we have been able to include over the last year: guest speakers, videos of our choirs, and other appropriate items. The re-opening committee is working closely with the facility team and Pastor Amy to make sure that these changes are made in ways that enhance, and do not detract, from Bethlehem's worship life. It may take us some time to get this right. We invite your patience and your comments as we work on this change.

★ **Music Staff information:** Susan DePasquale has been an integral part of BLC the family for 32 years through her gift of music. After all these years, Susie has shared that she plans to retire at the end of August, 2021. The good news for us is that Susie will not be leaving Bethlehem, she will remain an active member of this congregation. Susie shared with Council that the events of the past year have not been a factor in her decision. This had been her plan before the year 2020 came with all its trials and before knowing that in 2021 we would be celebrating our 100th anniversary at Bethlehem.

In addition, Annette Finkbeiner has shared her intention to end her service as Director of the Chancel Bells and Children's Choirs in May at the end of the current program year.

Our pastors will begin to work with the Personnel Committee and our existing music staff to develop plans and appropriate candidates to bring to the Council. The Council will begin to work to identify opportunities to recognize and give thanks to Annette and Susie for their years of faithful musical leadership.

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

40 Days+40 Miles+40 Dollars: Walking to End Hunger: Wednesday, February 17 - Sunday, April 4, 2021
Get out those walking shoes or boots or sneakers or snowshoes! Through the season of **Lent**, join the virtual walk with Bishop Macholz and others throughout the synod while learning more about issues of hunger and what we can do to help. Make a commitment of 40 days and 40 dollars in Lent, share your progress and register your accomplishment. Learn more at <https://upstatenysynod.org/new-events/2021/2/17/40-days40-miles40-dollars-walking-to-end-hunger>

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:

- Ada Carr, friend of Mike Higgins, who is healing following a broken neck
- Lois Peterson, aunt of Christine Higgins, who is recovering from a fall
- Iona Jones who is hospitalized following a fall
- Riley, nephew of Kathy Moragne, facing health challenges
- Milani, 14-month-old granddaughter of Don Groff's niece who had surgery for a benign brain tumor
- 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
 - Elaine Forsberg, step-grandmother of Christine Higgins

[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 28 – March 7

(Last updated on 2/24/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

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)

Monday, March 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, March 2

BLC Office Closed**

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019

Wednesday, March 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
7:00 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, March 4

10:00 am Zoom* CMT Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 825 5536 5823)
6:30 pm Zoom* BLC Officer's Meeting

Friday, March 5

Pastor's Sabbath

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

Saturday, March 6

Sunday, March 7

Third Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Facebook Livestream
Worship followed by Holy Communion – the sanctuary will be open for people to receive communion until 11 am
No book/bible study today
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.**

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!)



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