



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

MARCH 7, 2021

Third 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.

*(Jesus) was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.*  
- Mark 1:13

### Idle or Idol?

My wilderness journey began 3 1/2 years before the pandemic. In my retirement I experienced several unknowns: Who am I without my profession defining me? What is God calling me to do that offers meaning? Who will accompany me beyond my family, as now I have left the community I knew so well? Who are friends I can count on being with me beside Pat and Vanna and Alex each night?

2020's pandemic only highlighted the need for connections. Facebook and sports on TV are poor substitutes for face-to-face dialog. Barbra Streisand was correct when she lamented, "People who need people are the luckiest people in the world."

The faith community at BLC has been a source of new hope and inspiration. Together we affirm our baptismal calling to hear and proclaim God's Word, and strive for justice and peace. Each night I thank God for the day I have been given, and pray for help to follow the calling God has yet for me.

Jeff Hedin

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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, 3/7:** Psalm 19; John 2:13-22 We see Jesus in the temple

**Lessons for Sunday, 3/14:** Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; John 3:1-21 We see Jesus in the shadows

**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.*

★ **Join the Palm Processional:** Worship on Palm Sunday (3/28) traditionally begins with processing around the worship space, waving our palms, singing "All Glory, Laud and Honor." Take part in this joyful procession by sending in a photo or video of your household waving your palm branch (find one in your Holy Week kit or [download a copy here](#)). We'll create a "parade" across our screens as part of worship and see Jesus in the faces of our beloved BLC community! **Photos and videos should be submitted by March 21 through our Media Submissions folder in Box (contact the church office if you need access).** Contact Pastor Hoffman ([pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org](mailto:pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org)) with any additional questions!

**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 10: In Community with Our Neighbor**

Worship led by: Pr. Eric Madsen, Pr. Korey Finstad, Pr. Steve Meyer  
Prayer practice: Meditative Virtual Prayer Walk

### **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.

## Grow in Faith and Discipleship

★ **Devotional resources:** The April - June 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).

**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](mailto:bob.stolze@rochester.rr.com).

## Live Our Faith in Daily Life

★ **Thank you from LYO for Sweetheart Sale:** On behalf of the LYO and myself thank you all so much for your participation. We have felt so supported this entire year and are thrilled we are still able to connect with all of you in different ways. A special thanks goes out to Bev Edwards for creating and donating all sweets sold during the Sweetheart Sale. Thank you all! – Bethany Trippi

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

*No session on March 7 – Resuming on March 14 at 9:45 am (followed by March 21 & 28)*

David Gerhardt is leading 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 wish to join the last 3 weeks of the session ([dgerha4616@aol.com](mailto:dgerha4616@aol.com)).

## Care for One Another

★ **Help us remember our homebound in March:** While we have no birthdays in March, Spring and St. Patrick's Day offer great reasons to send a greeting. 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. Any occasion is a good time to remind them that they remain in our thoughts and prayers as members of our community of faith here at BLC. For further information, please contact Donna Berner at [donnaberner@yahoo.com](mailto:donnaberner@yahoo.com).

## 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 the 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 Tithely or by check to BLC.
- **View** monthly calendars with recipes, prayers, activities, and reminders!
- **Watch** videos of some of the March recipes being made at:
  - March 13 Biscuits <https://youtu.be/sPV1lWI1nEE>
  - March 20 Scots Scones <https://youtu.be/PlDWxT6xq5g>

**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://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!**

- March 7 – shampoo or soap - #1 Pam Heiple, #2 Kathy Forney
- March 14 – dried or cans of 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](mailto: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](#)

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](#)

### **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.

## Community News

### 40 Days+40 Miles+40 Dollars: Walking to End Hunger

- Sunday, April 4, 2021 2:00 PM
- Upstate New York Synod 5811 Heritage Landing Drive East Syracuse, NY, 13057

#UNYSWalkingToEndHunger #40days40miles40dollars #ELCAWorldHunger

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.** <https://upstatenysynod.org/new-events/2021/2/17/40-days40-miles40-dollars-walking-to-end-hunger>

#### **How to participate:**

1. **Make a commitment to walk at least 40 miles in the 40 days of Lent and donate \$40 to ELCA World Hunger.** You can walk in the great outdoors or just around your house as you develop this shared Lenten practice of walking and giving financially to the work of ending hunger.
2. **Share your progress on social media using these hashtags #UNYSWalkingToEndHunger #40days40miles40dollars #ELCAWorldHunger** Be sure to watch for Bishop Macholz's messages as we walk through the season.
3. **When you reach 40 miles go HERE to register your accomplishment and make your donation. All monies collected will be given to ELCA World Hunger.** You may also send a check to the UNYS Synod and make sure to make note that it is for ELCA World Hunger.



**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:*

- Jack Slaybaugh, brother-in-law of Bill Antell who died on 3/1
- Richard Milhouse, uncle of Bob Stock who died on 2/28

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

- Charles Levene, father of Terri Pries, who is undergoing cancer treatment
- Carolyn Olsen, now receiving care at Crest Manor
- 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, recovering from a recent fall
- Waverly, friend of Phyllis Stock as she begins dialysis and seeks a kidney donor
- 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

★ **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 March 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](http://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](http://www.blcfairport.org)



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

## Calendar for week of March 7 – March 14

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

### 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*  
12:30 pm Zoom\* Joint Council/CMT Session  
7:30 pm Zoom\* LYO  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

### Monday, March 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, March 9

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

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

### Wednesday, March 10

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

9:30 am Zoom\* Bible Study  
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)  
10:00 am Zoom\* Liturgy Planning Meeting  
6:30 pm Chancel Bells  
5:45 pm Zoom\* M&SC Meeting  
([Join](#) or use ID 810 4880 8961)  
7:00 pm Zoom\* Wednesdays in Lent - Created for Community 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 11

### Friday, March 12

#### **Pastor's Sabbath**

*No Folk Group Rehearsal*  
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group Rehearsal

### Saturday, March 13

9:15 am Property Committee  
11:00 am – 12 pm Pickup Holy Week Bags at the District Lot

### Sunday, March 14

#### **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

#### **Daylight Saving Time Begins**

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

**\*\*Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office** on Tuesday, March 9 & Wednesday, March 10. Pastor Amy remains available both days 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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