



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

MARCH 21, 2021

Fifth 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.

*I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth... - Psalm 121*

I love the book of Psalms. Partially because I love poetry; partially because all ranges of emotions are so eloquently expressed. So, this is where I turn when I reach for the Bible. Psalm 121 has always been my favorite. I guess growing up in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia had much to do with that. Whenever I was overwhelmed, fearful or alone, all I had to do was look upward at the Blue Ridge Mountains and feel the reassurance that the Lord would protect me. It was as if a protective warm blanket covered me and I knew not be afraid. Even though those mountains are far, far away in distance and time, I still recite this psalm (although the old King James version is my favorite) when I need comfort. I have always received it. I have faced difficulties in my life, like most of us, but I knew that the warm, comforting blanket of the Lord was always wrapped around me to help me through the dark and difficult times.

This is what comforts me through this pandemic. Sure, there have been inconveniences and sadness over missed gatherings, missed hugs and the isolation from others but I am blessed to be retired, I have plenty of food, I have a warm house and I have love from family and friends. I have so many blessings as God truly walks with me and gives me strength.

~ Marcy Adams

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time and forevermore. 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.

**Lessons for Sunday, 3/21:** Psalm 31:9-16; John 12:20-33  
We see Jesus in loss

**Lessons for Sunday, 3/28:** Mark 11:1-11; Mark 14:1-15:47  
We see Jesus honored

★ **We want to see YOU!** Throughout Lent we have seen Jesus revealed in scripture. On March 28, we want to see YOU in our “virtual” Palm Procession. 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!

**Maundy Thursday Meal Share... Sign up by 3/25 to share a meal with another household!** Do you miss the soup and bread suppers throughout Lent that we had in our pre-COVID life? We can’t physically break bread around the same tables, but we can break the same bread around different tables. Sign up to and we’ll pair the households who will then arrange the exchange details (making plans for a contactless drop off/pick up). *Complete the form at <https://blcfairport.org/maundy-thursday/> by March 25 if you’d like to be part of a pairing!*

**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 24: In Community with Christ**

Worship led by: Pr. Matthew Nickoloff, Pr. Jonathan Deibler

Prayer practice: Praying the Examen

**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.

★ **Holy Week 2021:** Our Lenten plea –“We want to see Jesus!”–culminates in Holy Week, when we do see Jesus. We see Jesus honored (Palm Sunday); gathered with friends and commanding us to love (Maundy Thursday); crucified (Good Friday) and resurrected (Easter Sunday). As we observe Holy Week as a community this year, we want to see Jesus in all of these ways –not only through a screen in our homes, but in tangible signs and practices throughout the week. [Download a copy here](#) (or contact the church office for a copy) to learn more about the plans for the week so you can be ready to take part! NOTE: Some activities require planning ahead, so don’t wait to read this!



★ **Share in BLC's Midweek Bible Study!** Did you know that BLC has a Midweek Bible Study that continues to meet on Wednesdays at 9:30 am via Zoom? You are welcome to join weekly, for a specific series, or on occasion. On March 17th, the group will begin a new series called *One Week* which will focus on Holy Week through many scripture verses, background material and a series of questions. We’d love to have you join the conversation. Use the ‘join now’ button in the [Calendar of Events](#) to sign on. If you have questions, or would like more information, contact Kathy Moragne - [kathymoragne@gmail.com](mailto:kathymoragne@gmail.com)

## Live Our Faith in Daily Life

★ **BLC Scholarship - Attention Graduating Seniors!** In anticipation of graduation and looming college applications and scholarships, please consider applying for the BLC Senior Scholarship. The application has been sent to all known seniors via email, and there are hard copies available from the office by request. If you do not receive one electronically, or have any questions, please contact John Schmeelk at [jpschmeelk@gmail.com](mailto:jpschmeelk@gmail.com). Applications are due on April 4.

★ **The William Shortz Memorial Scholarship** is available to all Lutheran high school seniors in the Rochester area. (Many BLC-ers have received it in recent years!) William Shortz was a beloved pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Irondequoit, New York from 1976 through 1994. The scholarship was established in his memory and honor in 1996 to support Lutheran youth in the Rochester area. The scholarship awards are \$500 each and the deadline is **April 12**. For guidelines and additional information, please call or email Barbara Mittak, (315-946-4759 or [bbmittak@yahoo.com](mailto:bbmittak@yahoo.com)).

**Book/Bible Study: Love Is The Way, Holding On To Hope In Troubling Times, March 21 & 28 at 9:45 am**  
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

★ **Thank you!** *I would like to extend my thanks to everyone for thinking of me and sending greetings & cards throughout the year. God Bless Everyone! ~ Anita Trabold*

## Serve Our Neighbor

**M&SC** stands for the Mission and Social Concerns Committee. As part of the Serve Ministry, we reach out to the world for the purpose of serving our neighbors near and far, especially those who are marginalized and easily forgotten.

We continue to meet virtually and invite you to join us for one meeting or many – we welcome you in whatever way you may contribute! Meetings are held typically held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month beginning at 6 pm. Please check the BLC calendar of events and join via the Zoom link.

**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.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Since the pandemic, 50,000,000 people are food insecure and 17,000,000 are children. Your contribution makes a difference!

Please 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!

**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. There are still opportunities available for you in March through May.

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 Whitney 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! Or check out photos posted by your BLC family.

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!

HUNGER NEVER ENDS – if you see a \* next to a date, WE NEED YOU

- 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.

**Racial Justice – Continuing our Learning:** White children are not taught about race and racial injustice with the same frequency or at the same early age as their peers of color. Reading diverse, cross-cultural books is a great place to start having conversations. Consider exploring recommendations and expanding your bookshelves at home.

★ **Hope!** Did you plant hyacinth or daffodil bulbs for God’s Work Our Hands week of service last fall? The bulbs should be rejoicing in spring’s arrival by showing new green growth! Feel free to share pictures of your bulbs as they grow and bloom on the [BLC family and friends Facebook page](#). If you are near church, look for the many bulbs that were planted there!

★ **With gratitude from our neighbors:**

**Open Door Mission:** “The generous gifts from Bethlehem Lutheran Church are a tremendous testimony of your compassion for the poor and homeless at this critical time in our Rochester community.”

**Saving Grace Ministries of Rochester:** “Your gift to this ministry has resulted in transformed lives, restored families and renewed hope for those experiencing dark places. We are expressing the heart of God to serve a needy segment of our society and let love be our voice...Words cannot express how much we appreciate your prayers and support as we partner together to change our community one life at a time.”

**Perinton Food Shelf:** “Thank you for your generous donation...monetary donations are especially helpful during the Coronavirus crisis...The Perinton Food Shelf provides food assistance to 56 families per month on average which amounts to over 1660 individuals in the past year. On behalf of those in need in our community, we thank you for your generous donation.”

**Fairport Good Neighbor Fund:** “We thank you for your generous contribution to assist Fairport Good Neighbor Fund help many families with needs. It is because of this donation we can continue to help those at their difficult time. In doing this we are all sharing Christ’s presence in their lives.”



## Council News

★ **We give thanks!** - In worship on Sunday, March 21, we recognize three volunteers who have recently completed leadership positions at Bethlehem. Alan Sleeman has ended his term as Treasurer and Sherry Cook and Julie Owen have both completed six years on Council. We will recognize their offering of service as part of worship on Sunday. Please extend your thanks and appreciation for their leadership!

★ **Re-Opening Team** – Has begun meeting more frequently in anticipation of continued progress toward more in-person activities. Current priorities are focused on building maintenance and making permanent some of the technology upgrades that have been made over the last year. Provided that vaccination rates continue to increase and infection rates remain low, we are hopeful that we will be able to begin in-person worship in the near future, though we have not yet identified a target date. The Re-Opening team meets next on Tuesday, March 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

# Community News

★ **Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center summer camp registration portal is open.** This summer's schedule has been pared down due to anticipated COVID-19 restrictions. For the health and safety of our camp community, we have also reduced the cabin capacity to 6 campers per cabin and no more than 42 campers per week. Consequently, spaces are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis. The modified summer schedule, information on how we plan to keep our campers safe during the continued pandemic, and the registration portal can [all be found on our website](#). The schedule, capacities, and safety protocols are subject to change as mandated by the New York State Department of Health. Updates will be posted on the website. For more information call 716-386-4125 or email [contact@lclcenter.org](mailto:contact@lclcenter.org).

★ **Free Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate Program**

The University of South Florida is offering a free 14-hour Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate starting March 24. <https://today.brockport.edu/live/news/397-free-diversity-equity-inclusion-in-the>

**Open Door Mission 21st Annual Golf Classic is now a 2021 season long event right up until Labor Day...and as easy as 1-2-3!** Thank you for considering participating and your support during this challenging time for the Mission and our community as a whole. Register at <https://birdease.com/ODM2021GolfClassic> For more information, contact Christopher Scribani, Associate Director of Development at (585) 787-1426 or [cscribani@opendoormission.com](mailto:cscribani@opendoormission.com)

## 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>

**We Ask Your Prayers:** *We pray for those whose thanks or needs are known to us.*

*We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:*

- Hunter, nephew of Lisa Rosenbauer who has successfully completed treatment for cancer

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

- Hans Haible, father of Andy Gates' cousin Brigit, who died on 3/14
- Kevin Sleeman (brother of Alan Sleeman) who died on 3/13

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

- Beth Schoenfeld as she anticipates surgery on 3/25
- Karen Miller, and her daughter, Amber, friends of Carol. Karen has been placed in Hospice care
- Christina Pointer, friend of Carol, who fell and injured herself at work
- Waverly, friend of Phyllis Stock as she 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

[Click here to view and print the March long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!



## Calendar for week of March 21 – March 28

(Last updated on 3/17/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, March 21

#### **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

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)

### Monday, March 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, March 23

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

### Wednesday, March 24

9:30 am Zoom\* Bible Study  
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)  
9:30 am Education Planning  
Meeting  
([Join](#) or use ID 871 8823 9638)  
6:30 pm Chancel Bells  
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 25

**BLC Office Closed\*\***

### Friday, March 26

**BLC Office Closed\*\***  
**Pastor's Sabbath**

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

### Saturday, March 27

### Sunday, March 28

**Palm/Passion Sunday**

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 Thursday, March 25 & Friday, March 26. 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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**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

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