



WORSHIP



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

May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY
star

As we prepare for worship this weekend, consider reading this week's lessons along with this reflection to ground yourself in the Word. This reflection comes from sundaysandseasons.com and is also printed on the back of the worship bulletin.

Invited into Friendship

Ask any child who has moved to a new place and they will probably confirm that their biggest worry was if they'd make new friends. Parents worry for their teenager and young adult in each stage of growth, wondering if new friends will be kind and generous, if their daughter or son will find mutually beneficial relationships. Adults are not immune from their own relationship trials. Busy lives, competing priorities, transitions and death can mean the end of sustaining relationships. Bullying, fear-tactics and misuse of others are common problems, so friendship is precious. We treasure new friendships and work to keep tending those that last for many years—because we need them.

Today's readings inspire and compel us to love one another and see one another as God does. As the Holy Spirit falls on those outside the inner circle of the circumcised, Peter asks how the water of baptism can be withheld. In 1 John we hear that those who love the parent love the child. Jesus says followers are no longer servants but friends. So whether they are a stranger with different customs and practices, our family member, or closest friend, we are called today with the challenge and opportunity to love them. The promise is that this unconditional love that comes first from our Creator and Parent, expressed through the person of Jesus and through the Spirit, is splashed all over us, and will make our joy complete.

For those who have experienced great relationships in their lives and for those who have never yet quite tasted that sustaining fruit, Jesus shows how much he loves us and the ways to cultivate deeper relationships. Jesus laid down his life to show his great love. We're invited to love expansively and experience the joy of friendship with Jesus and through the body of Christ.

ARE YOU READY FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP?

Worship virtually at 8:30 am

1. [Facebook Live](#)
2. [Watch On YouTube](#) – Subscribe to our channel
3. [Livestream on the website](#)

Worship in-person at 10 am

Due to sanctuary capacity limits, reservations are required
([click here to save your seat\(s\)](#)) or contact the office for assistance)



Worship the Living God

Lessons for Sunday, 5/9:

1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Lessons for Sunday, 5/16:

1 John 5:9-13; John 17:11b - 19

↓ **Worship Schedule** - As we move to begin in-person worship again, the two worship times each week will be on Sunday – 8:30 am Livestream and 10 am In-Person worship (reservations required). As we live into this new schedule, we may need to make changes. We will communicate changes that we make in the weekly Star and the other email communication. Look at the [Gathering Again](#) page on our website, for the latest updates.

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

↓ **Baptism:** We welcome Cooper James Miller into God's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism during our livestream worship at 8:30 am on Sunday, May 9. Cooper is the son of Christopher & Kathryn Miller. His sponsors are Russell & Erica Kolker, Jim & Lauren Miller, and the People of God at BLC.

↓ We will also include the **Blessing of Quilts and Shawls on May 9** as we dedicate these tangible signs of God's loving presence.

Hospitality Team Members Needed! *In order for in-person worship to happen safely and well, we need your partnership and assistance.* Are you able and willing to be part of a team extending hospitality and assisting our Bethlehem community in following the new protocols and guidance that will be required for these gatherings? Sign up on the BLC Website. We have developed specific guidance and will train you ahead of time so you will know what your role and responsibilities are. Please [sign up here](#) or contact the church office if you would like to serve on a Hospitality Team!

Mark your Calendar for Music Sunday! Share in worship on Sunday, **May 16** as we celebrate by lifting our voices (and instruments) in thanks and praise to God in worship. This is one of many ways that we share our gifts in and through this community. On May 16 we will give thanks for the musical leadership Annette Finkbeiner has shared with Bethlehem in her role as Director of Handbell and Children's Choirs.



Grow in Faith and Discipleship

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. **Looking for a short-term Bible Study?** On 4/28, we began a six-week study called "Blowing in the Wind", a study about the Holy Spirit. Especially timely as we look forward to Pentecost. 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

↓ **Confirmation Sunday:** 9 people will affirm their baptism in worship on Sunday, **May 23 at our 8:30 am Livestream service!** Please contact Pastor Amy if you have questions.



Live Our Faith in Daily Life

↓ **LYO is transitioning to in person gatherings!!** After a long year of zoom, we are all very eager to get together. Starting May 9th at 7:30 pm, LYO will be meeting in the courtyard for youth group! Please dress according to the weather, bring a lawn chair, a mask, and a personal snack to munch on! If you have any questions or concerns please contact Bethany Trippi at Bethany.trippi@blcfairport.org

↓ **Lawn Mowers Needed:** A stewardship opportunity that's not to be missed! We need two people per week, for about 1-2 hours, to cut the grass at BLC. We have all the equipment and supplies; all that's needed from you is to commit to a week or two between May and November. If you can help, contact Bob Stolze, Property Committee Chair, at 223-5577 or bob.stolze@rochester.rr.com.

↓ **BLC On the Go:** We're introducing "BLC On the Go!" Do you enjoy local hikes, playground meet-ups or other outdoor activities that you'd like to invite your BLC community to participate in? Please submit the details using the [online form](#) and we will help you spread the word and invite others to participate with you. Watch your email and check back in this Live section of the STAR for upcoming opportunities!



Care for One Another

Care for one another in May: Two of our homebound members have birthdays in May, Betty Harper on the 5th and Linnea Donahower on the 23rd. Mother's Day is the 9th if you care to send a greeting to the ladies on our list! Thanks for your commitment to this ministry! Blessings! For further information on our list of homebound members, please contact Donna Berner at donnaberner@yahoo.com.

Frequent Flier - Do you have a buildup of frequent flier miles that you have been unable to use over the last year? As part of our upcoming 100th anniversary celebrations, we will be welcoming former Bethlehem pastors and musicians in the coming months, and some of them have requested assistance with travel costs. If you have frequent flier miles, you'd be willing to donate (or if you'd be willing to assist in purchasing a ticket), please let Pastor Amy know!



Serve Our Neighbor

As part of the Serve Ministry, **Missions and Social Concerns** reaches out to the world for the purpose of serving our neighbors near and far, especially those who are marginalized and easily forgotten. Our vision includes actively advocating for justice (Micah 6:8: *What does the Lord require of us but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God*). Who are our neighbors? How might we recognize those who are marginalized and easily forgotten? What does actively advocating for justice mean? We invite you to explore these questions and more!

We Want YOU! M&SC offers a free Triple AAA membership (Advocacy, Allyship and Activism). Join our committee to learn more about taking full advantage of your member benefits. 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! Please check the BLC calendar of events and join via the Zoom link. At our next meeting on Wednesday, May 12th at 6pm, we will be discussing our M&SC budget/spending plan for 2021-2022. This is an excellent opportunity to share your voice on how our financial resources are allocated and how they align with our vision as a BLC community.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact Julie Owen at jowen@heritagechristianservices.org or 585-766-8728.

Drum Roll Please... thanks to your generosity, BLC has surpassed its goal of \$4000 in contributions for the World Hunger appeal. With grateful hearts, we will be dedicating your contributions to at the Synod Assembly in June.

Hunger Activists Rock! You stepped up to the plate to act.

- May 16 – Anything! – #1 GerryAnn Westcott/#2 Kathy Forney

Please consider adding extra items to your shopping cart on a regular basis and dropping them at the mini-food cupboard in the Pines. HUNGER NEVER ENDS. Find recipes, activities and more in May's World Hunger calendar at <https://blcfairport.org/world-hunger-appeal>. The Pumpkin Scones are highly recommended.

For short videos accompanying some of the recipes on the BLC website see:

- May 8 Pumpkin Scones <https://youtu.be/t1dhNmwmIos>
- May 19 Rye Bread <https://youtu.be/Hw50cROdSjA>
- May 22 Whole Wheat Bread with Oats <https://youtu.be/aHwNLOcU1c4>

Opportunity Fulfilled! Thank you to Joyce Clement who tossed her hat in the ring to become a member of the Perinton Churches Housing Board. BLC has a rich history with PCH; having supported their mission since their beginning 50 years ago. Thank you, Joyce, for pursuing this opportunity to be actively engaged with one of our mission partners and gain a deeper understanding of Fairport community needs.

Consider this: If you haven't already, please visit <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy> to learn more about advocacy. Directly from their homepage "ELCA advocacy works for change in public policy based on the experience of Lutheran ministries, programs and projects around the world and in communities across the United States. We work through political channels on behalf of the following biblical values: peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease."

What's Next? We're exploring ways to continue our conversations on racial justice over the summer months. And we are beginning conversations on God's Work Our Hands in the Fall. Share your thoughts and stay tuned for more!



Council News

↓ **Staffing Update:** Music Sunday (May 16) marks Annette Finkbeiner's last Sunday as Director of the Chancel Bells and Children's Choirs at Bethlehem. Annette had planned to leave her position a year ago and then agreed to stay for an additional year. We are so grateful for her leadership over the past year in learning new skills and finding new ways to work with Bethlehem musicians to make music! We will share our thanks and appreciation with Annette as part of Music Sunday next week. Your cards and well wishes can be dropped at the church office in the coming week.

In addition, as we shared in February, Susan DePasquale has announced her plans to retire at the end of August 2021. We will share plans to celebrate Susie's ministry and retirement in the summer!

These departures leave big holes in Bethlehem's Music Ministry. Our pastors have been working with BLC Officers and Personnel Committee to develop a staffing plan and will begin forming a searching committee. We remain committed to upholding the strong musical tradition that is central to Bethlehem's identity and to identifying music leaders who will continue to lead our music ministry and teach new generations of musicians to share their musical gifts with the Bethlehem community!

Re-Opening Team – In addition to finalizing a plan for in-person worship, the Re-Opening Team recently updated the guidance for in-person gatherings. Look for the most current information on the [Gathering Again page](#) on our website. The Re-Opening team meets next on Tuesday, **May 11** 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.

Computer Volunteers Needed... Have you enjoyed sharing in worship from home the past year? As we gradually begin to gather in person on Sundays, the livestream broadcast will continue to be available. Now, the small group of volunteers who have worked behind the scenes would like to share tasks with other BLC members. What you can do:

- **Volunteer at Home** - an easy job you can do from home will take no more than an hour each week on your home computer. 4 volunteers needed (to share shifts).
- **Sunday Morning Video Players** - do you know how to play YouTube videos? Volunteers at 8:30 am cue the Children's Message and other videos on the big screen. 3 volunteers needed.
- **Sunday Morning Livestream Producer** - we currently have two people who handle the technology to bring worship to your living room every Sunday. A third has stepped up and is beginning to learn. It would be wonderful to have a fourth volunteer to work one Sunday each month.

Contact Team Leader Andy Gates at livestreaming@blcfairport.org to learn more.

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

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- Cooper James Miller (son of Chris and Kathryn Miller) who will be baptized 5/9

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

- Robert (friend of Bob & Julie Stolze's son, David)
- Lynsay Smith (friend of Jackie Stivers) who died on 4/24
- Karen Miller (friend of Carol Schrader) who died on 4/9

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Marilyn Rines as she anticipates surgery on 5/12
- Bob & Judy Lohr as Bob moves to St. John's Green Houses 5/6
- Tim Montalbano (husband of Linda) who is recovering from recent surgery
- Dan Juers who is recovering after a recent hospitalization
- Madison (granddaughter of Linda Keefer) who is recovering from recent surgery
- Waverly, friend of Phyllis Stock as she seeks a kidney donor
- 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 May long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!

Calendar for week of May 9 – May 16

(Last updated on 5/5/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, May 9

Blessing of Quilts

Baptism at 8:30 am

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream Worship
10:00 am In-person Worship
([Reservation required](#))
7:30 pm LYO

Monday, May 10

6:00 pm Virtual Youth Choir
([Join](#) or use ID 816 9461 2911*)
6:30 pm BSA Troop 208

Tuesday, May 11

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

Wednesday, May 12

9:30 am Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942*)
9:30 am Education Planning Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 871 8823 9638*)
6:00 pm M&SC Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 812 1431 6292*)
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200*)

Thursday, May 13

Friday, May 14

Pastor's Sabbath

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

Saturday, May 15

Sunday, May 16

Music Sunday

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream Worship
10:00 am In-person Worship
([Reservation required](#))
7:30 pm LYO

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.

Worshipping In-Person: To accommodate our sanctuary capacity limits, we are currently requiring reservations for worship. You may [reserve space here](#) (the link is also available on BLC's [Share in Worship page](#)). If you need assistance making a reservation or don't have internet access, please contact the church office.

***Zoom Meetings at BLC:** The easiest way to join is to use the direct link available in the [Calendar of Events](#) on our website. If you don't see your meeting in the Calendar of Events or have questions, please contact your group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details!

Announcements for the STAR should be submitted through the office by Wednesday morning at 9 am. Visit www.blcfairport.org and to sign up for reminders and special announcements (including the STAR!)



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