



WORSHIP



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

May 16, 2021

Music Sunday & Seventh Sunday of Easter



**BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

WEEKLY
star

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton shared this reflection in the May issue of *Living Lutheran*. A portion is excerpted here, the entire article can be [read online](#).

I had a friend in high school who said, "Wouldn't it be great if our lives had a soundtrack and we could hear it?" That way we would always know what was coming at us. Suspenseful music, ominous music, joyful music, sorrowful music, heroic music—all would alert us to what is just around the corner and would accompany us on our way. There is something intriguing about the idea. And it could work if your soundtrack were the only one and everyone and everything else were just the supporting cast in your musical.

But God didn't create us that way. We aren't solitary lives played out on an isolated stage. God created us by love and for love. We were meant to be together. The Trinity is relationship and God welcomes us into that holy company.

Like God's love, music is at the same time deeply personal, sounding deep within an individual's soul, and universal, ringing out to an entire community. Like God's love, music sings to us in all of our marvelous diversity. Just as the beauty of creation is apparent not in monochrome but in Technicolor, so also must music be polyphonic. This is why we have a variety of worship resources that include a variety of musical styles from many cultures and in many languages.

One of the great harms done by Western missionaries was to equate proper, acceptable and God-pleasing worship with Western music, dress and even instrumentation. The problem wasn't the introduction of their music. The problem was the replacement of Indigenous expression with Western music and the labeling of Indigenous music, language, dance and dress as pagan and worse. ...

Martin Luther, a musician and hymn writer, wanted his people to hear the universal message of the gospel in their own language. We Lutherans take a great deal of pride in Luther's translation of the Bible into the vernacular. How is it that we are not so ready to hear the gospel in the musical vernacular of the thousand tongues that sing our great Redeemer's praise? Music, in all its many forms, sings for us even when we can't find the words. I like to think that, when the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words, the Spirit is singing and, in that distant melody, just beyond our comprehension, our longing and God's love meet.

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation. No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing? (ELW, 763)

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, 5/16:

Romans 15:1-7, 13; John 17:11b – 19

Lessons for Sunday, 5/23:

Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

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

Worship Schedule - 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.

Music Sunday! Share in worship on Sunday, **May 16** as we celebrate by making joyful noises 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. We are grateful that our new technology will allow us to **celebrate Music Sunday in both worship services!**

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!



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?** May 12th is the 3rd week in 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 has returned to in-person gatherings!! After a long year of zoom, we are all very eager to get together. They will start 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 Mowing Volunteers 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 the BLC Calendar of Events and your email starting 5/17 for a weekly update!



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. 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.

★ **A Support Group for caregivers:** If you are caregiving for a loved one, an elderly parent, spouse, relative or other loved one, feel free to join us! We are going to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 2 pm in person in the courtyard at BLC (weather permitting, with a backup of the Fellowship Hall). The participants will learn from each other; this is not a lecture or class! Please notify Lisa if you are coming so she has the number of attendees to ensure we are following the COVID guidelines. If you have ANY questions, or you are unable to join because you are not able to meet in person, please contact Lisa Rosenbauer (585) 698-6189.

★ **Help memorialize Steve Donner:** We received this note from a friend of Steve Donner: *"I was friends with Steve Donner and his obituary mentioned his close involvement with his church. A bunch of his current and former colleagues at Harris/Nielsen have come together to start a GoFundMe fundraiser to collect enough funds to donate in his memory to Geva Theater to have his name on a seat plaque for 15 years. After receiving a blessing from Steve's parents over the weekend, I launched this campaign yesterday and wanted to pass it along to you. ... Thank you for your consideration and support in these efforts."* https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-memorialize-steve-geva-theater-seat-plaque?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1



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!

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/Hw5ocROdSjA>
- 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

★ **Quarterly Mailer** – Watch your mailbox next week for your BLC quarterly mailer –with news and upcoming events. In our world of information overload, it's sometimes helpful to have a traditional paper version; and those who do not attend regularly, including ill or homebound members, or do not have electronic access appreciate knowing what is happening in the life of the congregation. If you do not receive the mailer, need larger print, or have a suggestion or comment, contact the church office.

★ **Quarterly Dialogue** – The Quarterly Dialogue originally scheduled for May 16 will not take place. Watch for the May Quarterly Mailer with current ministry updates. Our next Quarterly Dialogue will take place in July. Council and CMT have

been digesting the learnings from our recent listening sessions and working to develop concrete congregational goals that will guide our ministry over the next two years. These will be communicated as they are finalized.

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 25** 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:

- Annette Finkbeiner as she departs from her role as Director of Handbell and Children's Choirs Bethlehem

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

- Robert (friend of Bob & Julie Stolze's son, David)

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Cathy Gottermeier who remains hospitalized following emergency surgery
- Marilyn Rines as she recovers from surgery on 5/12
- Bob and Judy Lohr as Bob transitions to his new home at St. John's Green Houses 5/6
- Tim Montalbano (husband of Linda) 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 16 – May 23

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

Sunday, May 16

Music Sunday

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

Monday, May 17

6:30 pm BSA Troop 208
7:00 pm Investment in Ministries
([Join](#) or use ID 832 8521 8973)

Tuesday, May 18

Wednesday, May 19

BLC Office Closed **

9:30 am Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942*)
1:00 pm Zoom* Men's Lunch
([Join](#) or use ID 874 8853 3240)

Thursday, May 20

BLC Office Closed **

6:30 pm Church Council
([Join](#) or use ID 856 5035 0877)

Friday, May 21

Pastor's Sabbath

3:00 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, May 22

Sunday, May 23

Pentecost Sunday

Confirmation Sunday

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

****Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office during office hours (9am - 12 noon) on Wednesday, May 19 & Thursday, May 20. Messages will be checked in the afternoon. Pastor Amy remains available 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.

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!)



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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