



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

2-WEEK STAR FOR MAY 23 & MAY 30, 2021

Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation Sunday & Holy Trinity Sunday



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY
star



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

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.

The Holy Spirit's Groaning

Few sounds capture a groan like birth pangs. It is the raw sound of life and birth as well as of pain. It is the guttural desire for the end of the waiting for what has been anticipated and desired. For any who have been present through such an event, it is difficult to ever forget. It is in equal parts beautiful, stunning, and holy, as well as raw, painful, and horrific. "Creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves . . . groan inwardly while we wait for adoption," writes Paul to the church in Rome. He describes aptly that painful wail of our souls for the redemption we know so well, the restoration of all things promised in Christ. As Lutherans we know this all too well as the "now but not yet" proposition of our faith. We have been told of the return of the Messiah. We prepare for this coming and see how the whole of creation groans for her own restoration. We join this creation waiting for our own hearts, souls, and bodies to be restored. We know this is coming and as in pains of labor groan for this reality. While we wait, we are given a midwife, a Spirit of God to join us in our waiting for the birth of a new world and a new reality. This gift is given this day, the day of Pentecost. May the Spirit join us in our cry to God, eagerly awaiting the begotten, the Son of God, Jesus.

This Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the affirmation of faith of nine confirmands. Please take time to [read their biographies](#) and offer your blessing to them.

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, 5/23:

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

Lessons for Sunday, 5/30:

Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

★ **Two Week STAR:** Please note, this publication is intentionally a 2-week STAR. By now, you should have received your quarterly mailer, which was sent on 5/17! The content you see on 5/23 and 5/30 will be inclusive of details through June 6 and will be the same information.

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

Worship Schedule – For the time being, our two worship times each week are 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.

★ **Companion Synod & Holy Trinity Sunday is Sunday, May 30.** Bishop Macholz has designated Pentecost Sunday as Global Companion Sunday for the whole synod focused on Zambia and Zimbabwe. This is an opportunity for congregations to intentionally recognize and celebrate the Upstate NY Synod's international relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZa). Bethlehem will remember in prayer our companion synod relationships on Sunday, May 30. Join us as we will lift up our Companion Synods & celebrate Holy Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after the Day of Pentecost when we celebrate that God is three-in-one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



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?** We are nearing the end of our six-week study of "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



Live Our Faith in Daily Life

★ **Men's Lunch (Virtual)** "Gather" with the men of BLC via Zoom to share good food and informal Christian fellowship. 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 June 2!). Use the [calendar of events](#) 'Join Now' button in the listing on BLC's website! For further information, contact Marshall Kurfiss at mnkurfiss@yahoo.com.

LYO has returned to in-person gatherings!! LYO will meet on Sundays through July (no meeting on 5/30). They will start at 7:30 pm, 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

★ **Gardening/Planting at BLC on June 5 at 10 am!** Calling all Gardeners or Wannabe Gardeners... It is time to cutback bulbs and weeds and plant annuals in the BLC Gardens. Right now we have a small crew of 4 people to help in the planting and cleanup. We need YOUR help on June 5 at 10 am to make the surrounding gardens beautiful for the spring and summer months. Bring your rakes, small tools for digging, gardening gloves, kneelers, etc. We will observe safe practices of distance and masking when near others. Contact Kathy Forney at katwire@gmail.com to sign up or call 585-455-0229. As with all projects of this sort, many hands make light work. Please join us June 5. THANK YOU!

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 for a weekly update! Currently scheduled dates include June 6 Letterboxing with the Berners & June 20 Wacky Kickball with Marcy Adams!



Care for One Another

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.

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>

★ **Quilts for Lutheran World Relief** Several quilters have assembled entire tops for Lutheran World Relief. LWR prefers to have the quilts tied. We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-9pm in June, July and August in our Fellowship Hall (approved for 12 people) from 7-9 pm. Non-quilters are welcome, too. We'll wear masks. You're qualified if you can tie a square knot ... or believe you can learn! gerryannwestcott@gmail.com

★ **Second Sunday Dinner Ministry re-starting (delivery only) on July 11:** On the 2nd Sunday of every month, BLC serves meals to elderly and needy individuals and families in our Fairport community. Other local churches provide meals on the remaining Sundays. It takes a dedicated team of 20-30 volunteers each month to prepare, package, deliver meals, and clean up. We receive much of the food we need for this ministry through the Perinton Food Shelf. However, each month there are food items needed to round out the meals that we prepare. If you would like to donate food or explore other ways you might help as we re-start this important ministry, please contact Paulette Costanza (p.stanza@hotmail.com or 223-9255). Watch for more details in the coming weeks!

★ **A new BLC opportunity against hunger!** BLC and Moll Farms, Williamson are partnering to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to those in need. Details below, please contact Beth Walker rbowsend@rochester.rr.com with any questions!

- What: Four Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Bounty Baskets will be delivered to BLC, biweekly
- When: Every other Tuesday beginning mid-June
- What you can do to help: BLC members will pick up the boxes and take them to the Pines Mini Food Cupboard, open them, and stay with the boxes for one hour as community members stop by to "shop". Any food remaining is yours to use or share.
- Why: Food pantries do not often provide fresh food resulting in food deserts. CSAs support local and sustainable agriculture.
- More information to come as Moll Farms sets their delivery schedule.
- M&SC will be sure to advertise when fresh food will be available and encourage Fairport and the Pines community member to come and partake.

Moll Farms is a family owned and operated farm in Wayne County. Weekly and biweekly subscriptions are available if BLC members are interested in ordering for themselves. Weekly or bi-weekly baskets are delivered to your doorstep.

<https://mollfarms.com>



Council News

★ **Reserve your space!** It has always been expected that you request the space you plan to use for volunteer activity at BLC. Due to new safety protocols, it is more important than ever to reserve your space, both indoor and outdoor, at BLC for any gathering or meetings you wish to have. The church office is working on a simple way to for you request space for your events and activities, either one-time or recurring. Watch your email and STAR in the coming weeks for an explanation of the new process.

★ **Pastor Amy on Medical Leave** – Pastor Amy is scheduled to undergo knee replacement surgery on May 26. She will have an extended time away in order to devote her energy to the recuperation and physical therapy necessary to recover fully. Pastor Amy will be away from work from May 26 – June 8. She intends to work a reduced schedule from June 9 – June 22, provided that her recovery is progressing, and then will be on vacation June 23 – July 6. While she is away, Pastor David Gerhardt has graciously agreed to provide worship leadership on Sunday mornings. Pastor Hoffman will coordinate pastoral care and provide ministry support during Pastor Amy's absence.

★ **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. They continue to monitor recommendations made by our local and state governments and will adapt our practices as needed. 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.

★ **Synod Assembly** will be held on Thursday June 3 – Saturday June 5, 2021. The focus of the 2021 Synod Assembly is "Graced for the Sake of the World." Pray for those who will gather virtually as we elect a new bishop for the Upstate New York Synod. **For full details, visit the Synod Assembly page** of the Upstate New York Synod website: <https://upstatenysynod.org/synod-assembly-2021>

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

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- Our confirmands who affirm their faith on Pentecost Sunday - Michael Allan Chaffee, Allison Christine Furst, Aderyn Paige Gantner, Rachel Elizabeth Meetze, Jonathan Paul-Reyes Palermo, Lauren Anya Salvador, Evan Frederick Sousa, Olivia Bo-ri Strasser, and Elizabeth Marie Wholley

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

- Susan Pobjoy (longtime friend of Ruth & Jeff Hedin) who died following a long battle with cancer

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Pastor Amy Walter-Peterson as she prepares for knee replacement surgery on May 26
- Cathy Gottermeier recovering from recent surgery
- Waverly, who continues to face multiple health challenges
- 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!

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

Calendar for May 23 – May 30

(Last updated on 5/19/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

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 – new confirmands are encouraged to attend!

Monday, May 24

6:30 pm BSA Troop 208

Tuesday, May 25

2:00 pm Support Group for

Caregivers in the BLC Courtyard

Wednesday, May 26

Pastor Amy Medical Leave*

9:30 am Bible Study

([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942*)

Thursday, May 27

BLC Office Closed **

Friday, May 28

BLC Office Closed **

3:00 pm Dulcimer Group

Rehearsal

Saturday, May 29

Sunday, May 30

Holy Trinity Sunday

Companion Synod Sunday

8:30 am Facebook

Livestream Worship

10:00 am In-person Worship

([Reservation required](#))

No LYO today!

Calendar for May 30 – June 6

Sunday, May 30

Holy Trinity Sunday

Companion Synod Sunday

8:30 am Facebook

Livestream Worship

10:00 am In-person Worship

([Reservation required](#))

No LYO today!

Monday, May 31

Memorial Day Holiday

BLC Office Closed

Tuesday, June 1

Wednesday, June 2

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, June 3

BLC Office Closed **

7:00 pm Quilts for Lutheran

World Relief

Friday, June 4

Synod Assembly

3:00 pm Dulcimer Group

Rehearsal

Saturday, June 5

Synod Assembly

10:00 am Gardening/Planting

Day at BLC

Sunday, June 6

Communion Sunday

8:30 am Facebook

Livestream Worship

10:00 am In-person Worship

([Reservation required](#))

11:00 – 11:30 am – the

sanctuary will be open

for Livestream worshippers to

receive communion

2:00 pm BLC on the Go!

Letterboxing with the Berners

at Harris Hill Park

3:00 pm Senior Voice Recital

for Paul O'Malley (invitation

only)

7:30 pm LYO

***Pr. Amy will be on medical leave** to recuperate from knee replacement surgery from May 26 – June 8. She hopes to work a reduced schedule beginning June 9. Pastor Hoffman will coordinate pastoral care and provide ministry support during Pastor Amy's absence. In the event of a pastoral care emergency (i.e. death, family or individual crisis), please contact the church office and leave a message on the Pastoral Care line.

****Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office for planned time away** on Thursday, May 27, Friday, May 28 and Thursday, June 3. **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.

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!