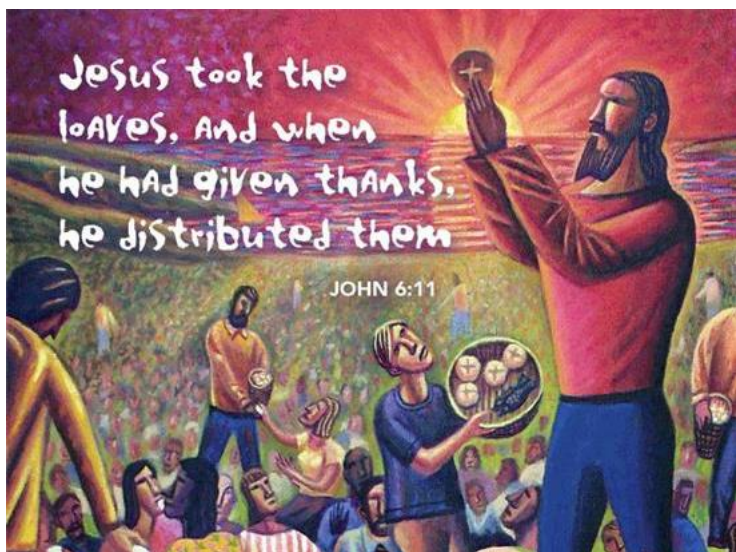




Sunday, July 25, 2021 ~ 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Today in our gospel reading, Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

Welcome!

We are so glad to have you share in worship at Bethlehem today. If you are visiting, please introduce yourself to one of the Pastors – they would love to greet you personally!

Today's service will be recorded and live-streamed. By participating in this service, you automatically consent to such recordings. Our camera operators take care to focus on worship leaders and not participants, but there may be times you are visible. Please speak with a pastor following worship if you have concerns.

Communicate with us: Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

Children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship. We have designated space within the sanctuary (underneath the window of Jesus, the Good Shepherd) that is reserved for families who may need additional space for strollers or carriers for children who cannot yet wear masks. We ask you to attend to distancing. If there is a way we can make worship a more hospitable environment for your family, please speak to a pastor or leave a comment through our website (see above).

Holy Communion is important to our life of faith. At this time, we receive communion on the first and third Sunday of the month.

Hearing assistance: Our sound system is equipped with personal hearing loop devices. Please ask an usher for a loop device.

Our Perrin Street entrance is accessible. Please ask for help if you need assistance.

Please silence your cell phones: As a courtesy to others, we ask that you please silence your cell phones during worship.

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

At home: create a focal point for worship in your home. A green plant calls to mind the color of the Sundays after Pentecost and serves as a reminder of growth and maturing in our life of faith, a frequent focus of the gospel texts during this season.

In-person: we encourage your participation in spoken and sung liturgy while remaining masked.

Call to Worship:

In the beginning

before time, before people, before the world began, God was.

Here and now

among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven, God is.

In the future,

when we have turned to dust and all we know has found its fulfilment, God will be.

Not denying the world, but delighting in it, not condemning the world, but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

God was. God is. God will be!



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Children's Moment

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

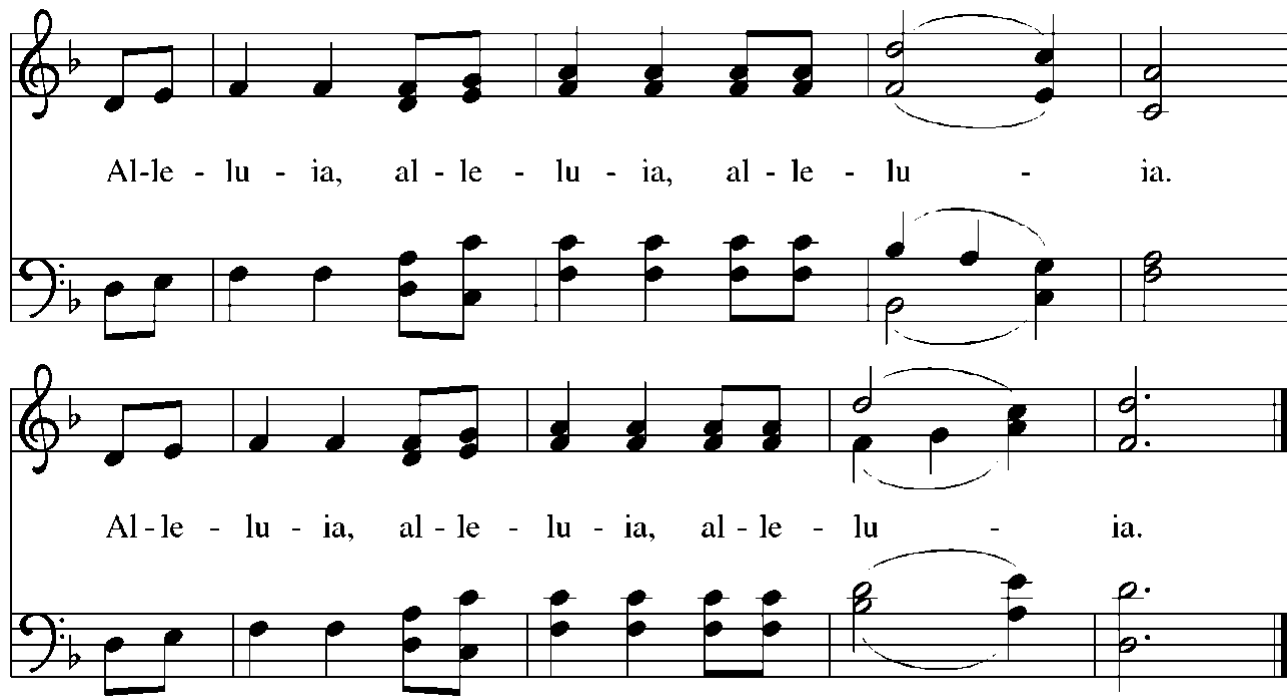
¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 6:1-21

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

¹Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started

across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

#674



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTED, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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Response to the Word:

Blessed are they whose way is blameless,

Who follow the teaching of the Lord!

United with believers across space and time, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen.

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Greet those with whom you worship physically with a sign of peace. At home, extend the peace of Christ through the comments section or text to those who are at a distance.

Offering

Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. We celebrate the opportunity to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources. If you would like to make a one-time gift electronically, scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page. For recurring gifts, download the Tithe.ly app. Checks may also be mailed to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450. Those worshipping in person may leave their offerings in the basket in the narthex.



Whatever form your offering takes, we give thanks to God for you and your generosity.

Offertory:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

#182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace,

the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things that we may come to the help of all in need, though Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

The Prayers of the People:

In the silences of our prayer you are encouraged to remember those whose needs are known to us listed below. You may also lift up the name of someone in need of prayer in the comments of our worship livestream.

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

Brief silence

Gracious Lord, we come before you with joy and thanksgiving that we can be together in this space and that you have provided the ability for us to also worship together on line. The ability to stay connected has given us strength as we walk together in these uncertain times. Please continue to bless those who make this possible. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray that when we hear stories of Jesus performing miracles, the Spirit will deepen our understanding of God's ways, power, compassion, justice and activity in the world, and that these will guide and influence how we live and serve as followers of Jesus. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of abundance, equip the church with faithful and generous stewards who will share of their resources to carry out your mission in the world. Help us to provide food and clothing, shelter and security for all the people of the world who live in places of famine and scarcity. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks that you see us and know our needs. We pray especially for:

We pray with thanksgiving for:

- Grace and Norm, married on July 24, 2021

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Ray (friend of Dave) who is dealing with health issues
- Darrell who is in hospice care at home
- Sandra (sister of Jan) as she begins chemotherapy
- Kenneth who is in hospice care and his wife Helen (sister and brother-in-law of Rev. Richard who was the first ordained member of BLC)
- Bill (brother of Bob) who is rehabilitating following a fall and awaiting test results
- Jim who has been hospitalized and awaiting rehabilitation care
- 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

Today, we also pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Ryan and Sarah (Aderyn and Ivy), Andy and Ruth, Chrisanne, Marjorie and Mark, and Darcy. We also pray for our siblings in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. We know that you hear the prayers of our hearts as well as those lifted aloud now. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen

Benediction:

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn:

Christ, Be Our Light

#715

(Music on the following page)

Dismissal:

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Rick Founds

As you leave the sanctuary, please be attentive to physical distancing.

You are encouraged to share conversation outside the building!



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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Thank you to Mike Koncilja... *for leading music in worship while Susan DePasquale is away, and to all those who participated in worship this Sunday!*

Happening today (7/25):

- 9:30 am In-person Worship (also livestreamed)
- 10:45 am Congregational Meeting and Quarterly Dialogue

The changes to the Constitution are as follows:

1. Make changes so that our BLC constitution remains in compliance with the ELCA model constitution for congregations
2. Change the Treasurer to an officer position

We will be offering two ways to participate in this congregational meeting:

1. Following worship, we will remain in the sanctuary for the congregational meeting at 10:45 am. No seat reservations are required. This location will allow us to join together with those participating through Zoom conference call.
2. A zoom conference call. You can use the 'join now' button on the [BLC Calendar of Events](#) listing ([Join](#) or use ID 823 1525 6119)

Calendar for July 25 – August 1

(Last updated on 7/21/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, July 25

Congregational meeting & quarterly dialogue

9:30 am Worship (both in-person and livestream)

10:45 am Congregational Meeting & Quarterly Dialogue (in-person or via Zoom,

[Join](#) or use ID 823 1525 6119)

Monday, July 26

Tuesday, July 27

2:00 pm Support Group for Caregivers

4:00 pm Sunday Morning

Launch Team Meeting

[Join](#) or use ID 837 5730 1695)

Wednesday, July 28

9:30 am Bible Study - Hybrid
(In-person or [Join](#) via Zoom – ID 943 3691 2942)

9:30 am Education Planning Meeting

[Join](#) or use ID 871 8823 9638)

Thursday, July 29

Friday, July 30

Pastor's Sabbath

2:30 pm BLC Dulcimer Group

Saturday, July 31

Sunday, August 1

9:30 am Worship with Communion (in-person and livestream)

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

BLC On the Go! Erie Canal

Kayaking/Canoeing at 11 or 2

hosted by the Gates & Joyce

families

**Fairport District Music Lessons will be held weekly Monday through Thursday from June 28 – July 29.*

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. Our co-Pastor's schedules vary from week to week. Both are available for scheduled appointments.

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!

In-Person Meetings at BLC: To help us schedule and plan for our increased facility use requests, we now require scheduling with this simple form (found at <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>) for each planned meeting, event and activity at BLC. Please complete the form so that we can check for availability, reserve the space, and plan accordingly. If you have any questions, or do not hear back within 3 business days of submitting a form, please call the church office to check on the status of your request.

Rollin' in the Dough—and Fishes

In recent years many books have been printed that focus on baking vast assortments of breads—from rye to pumpernickel, French to Italian. Today, however, we encounter a bread that points to both a deeper longing, physically and spiritually, and an even more fulfilling outcome than the tastiest assortment of baked bread. This abundance of bread satisfies hunger, transforms lives, and ushers in a new vision of the holy in community. Recognizing the power of action, John calls to mind the ways prophets fed and nourished the people, and then he multiplies this in the person and action of Jesus. Jesus uses earthly gifts to provide for the gathered community—the gospel's vision of Jesus' life and God's abundance in creation. Second Kings and John allow our congregations to wonder with the faithful servants and disciples how God will provide. We are invited into a conversation that might start by reflecting on a sentence written by the late United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld: "Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and give back." The scriptures today open a door for us to think about how individuals and communities are nourished and sustained by God, and also imagine how we become vessels of the holy who are now opened to the call of service. How might ordinary gifts (and ordinary people) become the ways God's love and mercy are multiplied in sustenance for neighbor, community, and world? Through our questions, our acts of giving, and our proclamation of the works of God in Christ Jesus, we are invited to experience what it means to be rooted in God's sustaining love and to proclaim this God who invites us into the unimaginable vision of abundance.



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The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors