



WORSHIP



GROW



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CARE



SERVE

WEEKLY STAR FOR AUGUST 15, 2021

12th Sunday after Pentecost



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY
star



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

Rooted. Growing. Sharing.

Members of the Bethlehem community share their stories as we mark our 100th Anniversary in worship this week.

Even before the words “Let there be light”, God was making plans. Now, many eons later, these plans seemed of human origin as they came to life in 1921 in Fairport, NY, in the shape of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church. But make no mistake, that event was God planting a seed, the Good News of Jesus Christ, as part of the eternal plan to bring forth the fruit of the kingdom of God.

And, like all seeds, once planted, it sent out roots gathering people from the surrounding community along with their hopes and dreams. Finally, a small plant emerged. But what the roots draw in does not determine what kind of plant it is – the seed, the gospel of Jesus, ultimately determines what the plant will become. It is this precious seed that reforms, redeems, and renews all that the roots gather. By God’s grace, everything the roots gather unites to worship, to study, to fellowship, to celebrate, and even to mourn. Miraculously, growth happens. Sometimes in spurts, sometimes in slow agonizing steps. Sometimes the growing plant needs pruning, and sometimes it gets injured. But always, the precious seed thrives.

In God’s good time, this growing plant yields an abundant harvest of lives transformed by the fruit of God’s Spirit – “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Gal. 5:22-23). And, in turn, these new lives blossom in the world as people, programs, and ministries that change and enrich everyone and everything they touch. They make all the world a more fertile place for the roots of the plant to gather still more people with their hopes and dreams; to help them grow as part of this plant and to produce more harvests. And so, the cycle continues – the harvest feeds the roots, the roots fuel the growth, the growth produces another harvest. And it all began with the seed – the Good News of Jesus Christ.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us.” (John 1:1, 14a)

~Dan Juers

This column will occasionally feature reflections or devotions from members of the congregation (as it does this week!) as one way that we practice discipleship and share ministry together. If you would like to contribute in the future, please contact one of the pastors.

ARE YOU READY FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP?

Both virtual and in-person worship will be at 9:30am
(no reservations required!)

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



Worship the Living God

Lessons for Sunday, 8/15

Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 1:39-55

Lessons for Sunday, 8/22:

Ephesians 6:10-20 and John 6:56-69

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

Summer Worship Schedule for August: Our worship time each week is on Sunday at 9:30 am (both in-person and livestream). Reservations are not required. Look at the [Gathering Again](#) page on our website, for the latest updates. We ask people to wear masks while moving through our facility and when worshipping together.

★ **Thank you!** What a wonderful celebration the Anniversary Planning Committee and the Holy Spirit provided for us at our homecoming service at BLC Plank Road on Sunday, August 8. The weather was beautiful, our Plank Road hosts were gracious, and the blessings were many. The countless hours of the Anniversary Planning Committee, coupled with the hands-on participation by all those who prepared the service came together seamlessly for a memorable start to our year of celebration. Our heartfelt thanks to all those who helped make the service possible!

★ **New Members will be received in October!** Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 3. New members will be received into the care of our congregation during worship. If you or someone you know wishes to join BLC, please connect them with one of the Pastors!

100th Anniversary News

100
YEARS

Please join us on Sunday, August 15 at 9:30 am at our home BLC in Fairport, as we welcome Bishop John Macholz, Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod, to lead us in worship. This will be our first designated monthly anniversary worship. This service will be accessible both in-person and via live streaming from the Share in Worship page on our website (blcfairport.org).

Bishop Macholz will be stepping down as Bishop at the end of August so we are delighted that he will be our guest while serving in his current role! Plan to join us at a reception following worship when you will have the opportunity to greet John & Lin and congratulate them on their well-deserved retirement.

Do check out the anniversary bulletin board and pick up your complimentary History Album and Timeline (one each per family) in the narthex. The Album and Timeline are a wonderful compilation of photos and dates to help you trace significant events through the past 100 years. Also, take some time to enjoy reading the personal quotes from our pastors and fellow members which dot the walls through the upstairs hallways.

★ **A New Photo Directory:** Didn't we just do one? It may seem like recently, but it was 2017! Time for an update. This time we would like all new photos rather than reusing one from when your hair was thick and dark or when your college student was in middle school. Starting in September we'll begin taking household photos on Sunday mornings. Watch for more information in the coming weeks!



Grow in Faith and Discipleship

Wednesday morning Bible Study is hybrid! Join us weekly at 9:30 am in person in the Fellowship Hall at BLC or on Zoom - use the 'join now' button in the [Calendar of Events](#) to join via Zoom. For the summer, we will be studying the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. They are usually posted on the first page of the Star. That makes it easy for you to join us as you are able without missing related content (though we're also happy for you to join us **every** week!) If you have questions, or would like more information, contact Kathy Moragne - kathymoragne@gmail.com



Live Our Faith in Daily Life

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. Scheduled dates are listed below. You can visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-on-the-go/> anytime to submit your event and view upcoming opportunities!

- **August 19: Quilt tying for Lutheran World Relief** with GerryAnn Westcott. First & Third Thursdays from 7-9 pm in July and August. Several quilters have assembled entire tops for Lutheran World Relief. LWR prefers to have the quilts tied. We will meet in our Fellowship Hall 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!



Care for One Another

★ **Help us celebrate Susan DePasquale!** For more than 30 years, Susan DePasquale has helped the Bethlehem community praise God! You may know her best as our long-time organist. She has also served as the Chancel Choir accompanist, and the director of children's choirs from 1992 to 2007! Please help us extend our gratitude to Susan for her years of dedicated ministry at Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

If you can't be present on the 29th when we celebrate Susie on her last Sunday, we invite you to send a personal note of thanks to BLC (mark the envelope with the words "Thank you Susie!") by August 25 for us to share with her as we shower her with thanks and wish her well in all her future endeavors!

★ **Greeter & Usher Survey:** We have been listening closely to those who have been providing feedback, and we are hopeful that this brief survey will invite even more information from our current (and future!) volunteers as we continue to define the constellation of folks needed to best support Sunday mornings at BLC for the fall. The goal of the survey is to get feedback from the people who have served, see who is willing and able to serve now, and think about how to schedule and provide the support needed on Sundays this fall. The results will give us more information about what roles and responsibilities need to be included each week, what role titles will be used, and how many people are needed to support Sunday morning worship. If you have served as a greeter or usher in the past, you should have received this survey by email this week. [Click here to access the survey and provide your valued input!](#) We are eager to hear from *you!*

★ **Do you have outdoor gardening or household projects that you could use help with?** We're working to identify activities for this year's God's Work. Our Hands. week of service. Please reach out to one of the Pastors if you have a project that requires assistance or if you want to learn more.

★ **Men's Lunch...Wednesday, August 18:** Gather with the men of BLC to share good food and informal Christian fellowship. The group will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1 pm at the Penfield Wegmans. For further information, contact Marshall Kurfiss at mnkurfiss@yahoo.com or Jim Berner at jamesberner1@yahoo.com

★ **A Support Group for caregivers... Tuesday, August 24:** If you are caregiving for a loved one (a relative, an elderly parent, a spouse, or other) feel free to join us! We 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.



Serve Our Neighbor

Missions and Social Concerns (M&SC): As part of the Serve Ministry, this group reaches out to the world for the purpose of serving our neighbors near and far, especially those who are marginalized and easily forgotten. We encourage you to join us for one meeting or many as we explore how we might increase engagement and build relationship outside our walls. Look for the meeting link on the [BLC Calendar of events](#) (the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 pm). We are also working to resume in person meetings. If you have questions or feedback, please contact Julie Owen at jowen@heritagechristianservices.org or 585-766-8728.

★ **Growing Together! Learning Links of Fairport!** *Thank you to all who answered the call for Learning Links School Supplies! You have helped a student start the new school year with a smile!*

★ **IF I HAD A HAMMER (or paint brush)! Habitat for Humanity is BACKKKKKKKK.** BLC is getting the band back together to support Flower City Habitat! As part of the God's Work Our Hands week of service, seven slots (volunteer opportunities) have been reserved on Saturday, **October 2, 2021**, to assist in construction of 871 Smith Street, in Rochester. Celebrate "God's Work, Our Hands" by showing some love to a neighbor. Help them build a home!

[View and print a sign-up instruction sheet here](#)

Excited to grab one of these slots?

- You must be least 16 years of age
- You must sign up via the web site: <https://give.rochesterhabitat.org/participants/202378-michael-joyce>. Scroll down to the Bethlehem slot!
- First come, first served so grab your spot NOW
- Experienced people will be on-site to guide you

- 9 am – 4 pm
- There will be a variety of tasks
- It is certain that God will be with us
- If unable to be there physically, the sign-up site has provisions for accepting financial donations as well.
- Contact Mike Joyce at 713.882.4471 or mjoyceusa@yahoo.com for information or questions.

BLC Opportunities against hunger!

- **BLC and Moll Farms, Williamson** are partnering to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to those in need. Access the link below to sign up! Moll Farms is a family owned and operated farm in Wayne County. Weekly and biweekly subscriptions are also available for BLC members who are interested in ordering for themselves. <https://mollfarms.com>. If you have questions, please contact Beth Walker, rbowsend@rochester.rr.com
- **The Perinton Food Shelf** is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to combat and curb poverty and help people in need. You can bring donations ([View their most needed items here](#)) to BLC and put them on the shelves down by the LYO room. We have dedicated volunteers who will make sure the food gets transferred! Monetary donations are accepted through a check can be mailed to Perinton Food Shelf, P.O. Box 381, Fairport, NY 14450. Learn more at <https://perintonfoodshelf.org/>



Council News

★ **New Music Director and Organist:** We shared this news in an email announcement earlier this week. Raelynn Clare has accepted the position of Music Director and Organist at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Raelynn comes to us as a church musician with over thirty years of experience in working with churches and musicians of all ages and skill levels. As a self-declared “lifelong learner”, Raelynn made her way to Rochester from California in order to pursue her musical studies at the Eastman School of Music.

Raelynn will collaborate with our existing staff and volunteers to give shape to our worship life. We are eager for her to begin working and building relationships with existing musical groups, ensembles, and individuals as we continue to enhance our music ministry at Bethlehem.

Raelynn begins her new role at Bethlehem in mid-September. [View the announcement and Raelynn’s bio here!](#)

Community News

The LIFE of Walter Welker LIVE Stage Show in Bloomfield, NY on August 20, 21 & 22. Proceeds to benefit: Alzheimer’s Association. Tickets \$15 available at <https://thelifeofwalterwelker.yapsody.com/> or at the door for the same price. General Seating. Indoor Venue – “*You Will Laugh, You Will Cheer, You Might Cry...*” Directed by Erick Jansen, Written by BLC’s own Jeffrey & Shelby L. Cook with a return performance by Neil Vokes who is back in the saddle as Walter. “*A man in his twilight years struggles to keep his house, his family & his sense of humor...*” Call 585-794-0710 for more information!

Invitation to Members of the Upstate New York Synod: Service of Holy Communion with the Installation of The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II as Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod. Held at Bethany Baptist Church, 149 Beattie St, Syracuse, NY 13224 on Saturday September 18, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. *Doors Open: 1:00 p.m., Pre-Service Music Begins: 1:30 p.m.* Reception follows at the church. Rostered ministers are invited to vest (*color of the day is Red*) and participate in the Entrance Procession. New York State and CDC gathering guidelines in effect on September 18 will be observed. So that we may reserve sufficient seating for rostered participants, **your attendance RSVP is kindly requested** via email at synodoffice@upstatenysynod.org

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

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

- Willard Ekegren (father of Kay Slattery) who died on 8/1
- Dottie Langenstein (mother of John Langenstein who is Kathy Forney's brother-in-law) who died on 7/20/21
- Darrell Kilburn who died on 7/26
- Helen Scott (sister of Pr. Richard Hembroek) who died on 7/24
- Kenneth Scott (brother-in-law of Pr. Richard Hembroek) who died on 7/23

We pray for those who experiencing transitions:

- The Antonoff family (Suzanne, TJ, Natalie, Bethany and Trace) as they move to Kazakhstan this week (they left by plane on 8/1). TJ is in the military.

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Waverly as she is hospitalized following surgery on her foot on 8/10
- Celia Topping who was recently diagnosed with cancer
- George Babcock (brother-in-law of Margie and Mark Gaul) who is hospitalized recovering from an infection
- Barbara Love (dear friend of Kathy Forney) who was just diagnosed with breast cancer and will begin chemotherapy this month
- Erica (daughter of Mary Osgood's friend) who has just been diagnosed with Systemic Lupus
- Daniel Meetze who is recovering from spinal surgery on 8/10
- Carrie Falzone who is recovering from surgery following a cancer diagnosis
- Joan Lambert (first wife of Bob Osgood) who is recovering from a fall
- Erin Schneeman (daughter of Kathy & Joe) as she recovers from spinal surgery and emergency abdominal surgery
- Anne Strasser as she recovers from a bike accident
- 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 August long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!

Calendar for August 15 – August 22

(Last updated on 8/11/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, August 15

9:30 am Worship with
Communion with guest Bishop
John Macholz (in-person
and livestream) There will be a
reception following worship!

Monday, August 16

Tuesday, August 17

Wednesday, August 18

9:30 am Bible Study - Hybrid
(In-person or [Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 943 3691 2942)
1:00 pm Sunday Morning
Launch Team
([Join](#) or use ID 811 5730 4917)
1:00 pm Men's Lunch at Penfield
Wegmans

Thursday, August 19

6:30 pm Church Council
([Join](#) or use ID 865 5035 0877)
7:00 pm BLC On the Go! Quilting
for Lutheran World Relief

Friday, August 20 *Pastor's Sabbath*

Saturday, August 21

Sunday, August 22

9:30 am Worship (in-person
and livestream)
12:30 pm 2nd Sunday Dinner
Ministry (delivery only)

Church Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9 am to 12 noon. 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.

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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