



WORSHIP



GROW



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CARE



SERVE

WEEKLY STAR FOR SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



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](http://sundaysandseasons.com) and is also printed on the back of the worship bulletin.

### God Is Partial

Again and again throughout biblical history, God is partial to caring for the poor, the weak, and the outcast. Which is why, perhaps, Jesus' response to the Syrophenician woman takes us by surprise: "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs" (Mark 7:27).

The Syrophenician woman acts in faith. She engages Jesus with what she believes to be true about him: that through him God's mercy will extend even to her. Despite the distinctions that separate them (including race, gender, and religion), she believes Jesus is a Savior who has the power to heal all people and that she, although not a Jew, is a member of the household of God.

The assigned reading from James (2:1-17), reminds hearers then and now that the Christian community's actions are to be shaped by God's partiality. God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith. While the world values the rich, the poor are God's own treasure, made honored guests and royal heirs through baptism. The community is called to a partiality based on God's values, not the world's.

The waters of baptism wash away all distinctions. Like streams breaking forth in the desert, these waters surprise us with mercy in unexpected places. These waters open our eyes, unstop our ears, and loose our tongues to see, hear, and speak God's partiality for the poor, the weak, and the outcast. Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, the Spirit fills us with faith—a faith active in showing mercy that knows no limits.

Around the table, rich and poor, haughty and humble, all who gather receive a feast fit for the family of God. All are honored and all are fed, because the Lord is the maker of them all.

### ARE YOU READY FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP?

9/5 Both virtual and in-person worship will be at 9:30am  
(no reservations required!)

Beginning 9/12, both virtual and in-person worship will be at  
8:55 am (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, 9/5

Isaiah 35:4-7a and Mark 7:24-37

#### Lessons for Sunday, 9/12

Genesis 2:4b-15

★ Thank you to Mike Koncilja... September 5 & 12...  
for leading our worship music!

**Worship on September 5:** Join us at 9:30 am (both in-person and livestream). 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.

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

★ **Baptism: We welcome Logan Brooks Morrisette into God's family** through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Logan is the son of Sarah & Jason and little brother of Quinn. His sponsors are Rachel Provazza, Chis Wolfe, and the People of God at BLC.

★ **Wondering about Sunday morning plans for the fall? We Have a Plan!** Pastor Amy and Pastor Hoffman have been sharing plans for Sunday mornings at Bethlehem **beginning September 12**. As we come back together for a new program year, we look forward to getting reacquainted! Our new Sunday morning format will give us a chance to intentionally engage one another, deepen relationships and ground us in faithful conversation as we start this next chapter as a community of faith. Watch our video at <https://blcfairport.org/plan/> to learn more about the Sunday morning schedule!

★ **NEW Ministry Teams:** Worship is central to our life together. As Lutheran Christians, **we believe that worship is not a passive experience**, watching and listening to the Pastor. Worship is the work of the people – that's what liturgy means! We all have a job to do in worship: lifting our voice in prayer and song, bowing our heads in prayer, opening our ears to hear the Word, and extending our hands to receive the Sacrament.

**Beginning on September 12, we are taking a new approach to filling the roles needed in worship.** Those requiring preparation will still be scheduled in advance. Others will be available for people to step in to when they arrive on Sunday morning. We hope this makes it possible for even more people – and a wider variety of people – to participate actively in worship! [Read more about it here.](#)

★ **BLC Chancel Choir: Rehearsals resume on Wednesday, September 8**

Lift up your voice and sing! We invite anyone who enjoys singing to participate! High school students are encouraged to join, as are those who cannot make a full year commitment, but who can attend for shorter periods of time. The choir will sing at the 8:55 am service. Wednesday rehearsals will be held from 7:30 – 9:00 pm in the sanctuary with masks and will begin on September 8. If you are interested in learning more about Chancel Choir, please contact Jim Jefferis ([jim.jefferis@blcfairport.org](mailto:jim.jefferis@blcfairport.org)).

**BLC also has dulcimer and folk groups – contact Rich Towsley or the church office to find out more!**

**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!

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary News

# 100 YEARS

Last Sunday, Pastor Amy gave thanks to Susan DePasquale as she officially ended 30+ years of ministry as our organist. Pastor Amy noted that even as we celebrate Susie's faithful ministry and heartily say well done, we also recognize the loss this marks for us as individuals in a community of faith. Pastor Hoffman added that she has been grateful to serve alongside Susie for the past 11 years and has been blessed by her faithfulness in ensuring excellence in our music ministry. Following the service, there was an outdoor reception offering all the opportunity to thank Susie in person.

Starting September 5, Bob Stock will be set up downstairs in the classroom facing the courtyard both before and after worship to take photos for our 2022 Anniversary Family Album. No appointment is necessary, and walk-ins are welcome. We would love to have 100% participation for this special Family Album!

For those who have asked, you can now order your own Anniversary Throw at the display in the narthex. The cost is \$33. Designed especially for this 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration, the throw is a beautiful memento for yourself, but it is also a wonderful gift for a shut in, family member, or friend.

Also, check out the Anniversary Print-on-Demand table in the narthex. Peruse the items and order copies of those things of interest to you; there is no charge for this. They will be printed and available later this month. Or, bring a flash drive, and complete the order form if you would like copies from the list of electronic files. At the Anniversary Game Display or on the BLC Website/100th Anniversary/Games & Trivia, you will find free items, such as BLC coloring books, word searches, and craft projects. There is something fun for all ages!

 **Grow in Faith and Discipleship**

**Blessing of Backpacks & More:** On September 5 in worship, we invite all who are headed to school this year -- students of all ages(!), teachers, school support workers -- to bring their backpacks, bags, or briefcases to worship to receive a special blessing at the start of the school year.

★ **Faith Formation for All – Mark your Calendars!** Fall Kick-Off for all ages will be on Sunday, **September 12**. Look for more information about registration in the Quarterly Mailer that was mailed on 8/27! (If you did not get one and want to be added to the list, contact the church office!). **If you have someone under age 18 who plans to participate, please take a minute to [fill out this form](#)!** The information you share will help us to communicate with your family, plan for your needs, and have accurate information on your child(ren) when they are in our care!

**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](mailto:kathymoragne@gmail.com)



## Live Our Faith in Daily Life

★ **Ruth Circle** resumes! Ruth circle will meet at BLC on Monday, September 13, 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue with the study of Max Lucado's book "Anxious for Nothing", Chapter 5, Contagious Calm. All are welcome to join us for the study led by Toni Thompson and fellowship. Any questions, please call Ruth Kurtz at 388-2608.

★ **Devotional resources:** The October - December editions of Portals of Prayer and Christ in our home are available in the sanctuary and narthex. We also usually have extra copies of Spark Family Magazine and the Living Lutheran Magazine available at the welcome table in the narthex. If you have questions about any of these resources, please contact the church office!

★ **BLC Quilters:** Like to sew? Like working with colors? Have time to send a hug/quilt to children (who may have nothing) in our community? or people in disasters worldwide through Lutheran World Relief? BLC Quilters are always glad to have new people help with this work. We have had quilt tying Thursdays during the summer for LWR. We will continue tying on the 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month. *Mark your calendar for September 30<sup>th</sup>. It's God's Work. Our Hands. Week!* On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month at 7 pm we will work together in the Adult Sunday School room to create/cut quilt tops for Linus Blankets and LWR. You are welcome to take kits home to sew, cut pieces together at BLC or just come help sort colors and encourage those cutting. No supplies needed. Conversation is welcome! Let GerryAnn ([gerryannwestcott@gmail.com](mailto:gerryannwestcott@gmail.com)) know if you wish to sew at home but cannot attend on Thursdays.

**Women of the ELCA Genesee Finger Lakes Conference Fall Assembly** on Saturday, September 11, 2021 at Tinker Park Nature Center – Tyler Pavilion (1525 Calkins Road, Henrietta, NY 14534). The program will begin at 11:30 am (registration starts at 11). The Cost is \$3.00. Walking the Labyrinth is an exercise in self-healing. "You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy." (Psalm 16.11) and Jesus' words, "I am the way the truth and the life..." (John 14.16). Please bring your own lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. RSVP by August 27 to Ann Seppa (585) 889-4413

**BLC On the Go:** Do you enjoy hikes, corn mazes, apple picking, 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!



## Care for One Another

★ **Homebound Member Birthdays in September:** Iona Jones, 9/8 and Connie Helbig on 9/17. We encourage you to reach out to these members who are not able to attend worship and related activities with us on a regular basis. Birthdays are a great time to remind them that they remain in our thoughts and prayers as members of our community of faith here at BLC. For further information, please contact Donna Berner at [donnaberner@yahoo.com](mailto:donnaberner@yahoo.com).

**Thank you!** Do you notice the flowers and the beautifully maintained gardens and landscaping at BLC? We often receive comments of appreciation from BLC members and friends, as well as the greater community. This is a labor of love, and much of it happens by individuals who are working hard behind the scenes! While we may not see all of the faithful gardeners, we wanted to acknowledge the dedication of some who we routinely see (Kathy Forney, Sue Towsley, Karen Bigenwald, Joyce & Bob Clement, Lil Lassen-Ward, Matt Beutel, John Schmeelk and Brian Edwards)! Thanks to **ALL** who share their time and talents on the BLC grounds!

**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.

**Funeral/Memorial Assistance Needed:** Would you like to help care for grieving families following the loss of a loved one? BLC is looking for people who can assist with ushering on the day of the service, and some custodial care of the building space before and after funeral services.

★ **Thank you to Jim Flanagan** for his years of dedicated service as the Coffee Hour Coordinator at BLC. His enthusiasm and service with a smile have been noticed and appreciated. If you see Jim, please join us in thanking him for his faithful service!

★ **Your Help Needed - BLC Fellowship Committee:** Enjoy planning family gatherings? Think you missed your calling as an event coordinator? Wondering why the fellowship committee hasn't offered the things you like? We need you! Openings for shoppers, writers, movers, artists, hosts, idea people and more. Flexible hours. Limited travel. Must be willing to work for coffee and donuts. (as soon as permitted) Contact Gerry Ann ([gerryannwestcott@gmail.com](mailto:gerryannwestcott@gmail.com)) or Dave ([davehahn@rochester.rr.com](mailto:davehahn@rochester.rr.com))



## 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.

**WE NEED YOU (yes, YOU)** Join us for one meeting or many as we explore how we might increase engagement and build relationship outside our walls. Our meetings are now hybrid – you have the option of joining us in person at BLC or virtually using the link on the [BLC Calendar of events](#). Our next meeting is September 8 at 6:30 pm. If you are unable to join us and have questions or feedback, please contact Julie Owen at [jowen@heritagechristianservices.org](mailto:jowen@heritagechristianservices.org) or 585-766-8728.

★ **God's Work. Our Hands (GWOH) WEEK of Service: September 26-October 3:** This week is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Like many things this year, GWOH service will look a little different but a pandemic will not keep our hands and hearts still! Again this year, we have the opportunity to be creative with the ways that we serve! Here is how YOU can participate! Visit <https://blcfairport.org/gods-work-our-hands/> to view ideas, existing opportunities and register a new activity!

- Identify and organize your own service activity which meets social distance and safety guidelines (including, *but not limited to* the ideas below).
- Gather family or friends to complete your activity.
- Have your group leader complete the form below to register.
- Complete your activity anytime the week of September 25 – October 3, 2021
- Take pictures. Share them on social media and send them to [office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org) by noon October 3 to be part of our celebration during worship on October 10. Include a note telling who is in the pictures and what you were doing.
- Consider using a Thrivent Action Grant to fund your project.
- The women at Coldwater House are looking for a volunteer to lead a bible study
- Consider a letter writing campaign as a means of advocacy. The ELCA provides templates and ideas: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/GWOH-Sunday> (Advocacy in service to our neighbor)
- Support a clothing drive at Pines of Perinton
- Assist in sorting, organizing, and distributing clothing at Open Door Mission
- Opportunities abound!

**IF I HAD A HAMMER (or paint brush)! Habitat for Humanity is BACKKKKKKK.** BLC is getting a team 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 at 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>

★ **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Dinner Ministry on September 12!** *“I was hungry and you gave me to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in.” -Matthew 25:35.* As disciples of Jesus we are called to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, and welcome the stranger. On the second Sunday of every month the dedicated volunteers of the Second Sunday Dinner Ministry prepare and deliver a hot meal to individuals in the Perinton community. At the present time we are looking for an individual or team to pick up a bushel of apples at Schutt’s Apple Mill (1063 Plank Rd, Webster) on the Saturday before *each* Second Sunday and deliver them to the Fellowship Hall. If you would like more information or would like to get involved, please contact Paulette Costanza at 585-223-9255 or [p.stanza@hotmail.com](mailto:p.stanza@hotmail.com). A HUGE “Thank You” to all those who have given their time, treasures, and talents to serve our neighbors in Christ. You are such a blessing!



## Council News

★ **Quarterly Mailer...** By now you should have received your BLC quarterly mailer –with news and upcoming events and information about 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.

★ **BLC Investment in Ministries Fund:** We are pleased to announce the ***BLC Investment in Ministries Fund (IMF)***. Over the past few months, a committee of BLC family members has worked with the ELCA and Church Council to propose the IMF. The idea is to establish a permanent source of funds for growing ministry, as we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

While BLC supports ministries outside of our walls through Missions and Social Concerns Committee and the annual spending plan, the IMF presents the opportunity for us to increase participation in ministry, both through financial support as well as individual member engagement. We have a BLC family that loves us and cares for us. We have safety and security. To someone out there, we will be giving an opportunity, or a start, or a second chance, and they will know there is a family of God that cares about them. And they will not forget it.

You will learn more about the IMF in the coming weeks through the STAR, BLC’s web site, a letter mailed to your home, and several Q&A sessions. Church Council approved the formal resolution to establish the IMF on August 19, and the Congregation will be asked to do so at the Annual Meeting on October 31. In the meantime, should you have questions, please feel free to contact any of the committee members – Paulette Costanza, Mark Gaul, Roger Kolker, Julie Owen, John Panko, Neil Vokes.

★ **Property Committee** meets on the second Saturday of the month at 9:15 am to tackle jobs in and around BLC. Responsible for the building and everything in it, to enable the wonderful worship, ministries, and activities that take place. Help is needed, both occasional and ongoing. All are welcome, and no special skills are required. Plus, it’s a lot of fun and

always interesting! If you'd like to come regularly or just be on our distribution list, contact Bob Stolze at [bob.stolze@rochester.rr.com](mailto:bob.stolze@rochester.rr.com).

★ **Updates for the BLC Members and Friends Roster:** Don't forget to update your contact information for the roster that will be printed and available this fall! Have you moved? Gotten rid of a land line and only use cell phones? Changed email carriers? Be sure your physical and email addresses, and home and cell phone numbers are correct. You can submit your changes via email to [office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org) or call 223.0634.

## Community News

**Give now for earthquake relief in Haiti:** ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response shares ways to give: Checks or money orders can be sent to: Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 (Write "Haiti Crisis" on your check memo line, give by phone at **800-638-3522** or [online](#)). Learn more [here](#)

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

*We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:*

- Bishop Lee M. Miller, II, his wife, Heather, and son, Griffin, as Bishop Miller begins his new role in the Upstate New York Synod on 9/1 and will be installed on 9/18
- Logan Morrissette (son of Sarah & Jason Morrissette and little brother to Quinn Morrissette) who will be baptized on Sunday, 9/5

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

- Carolyn Olsen who died on 9/2
- Laura Kruspe (friend of Chris & Lisa Meetze) who died on 8/31

*We pray for those in need of healing, especially:*

- Connie Specht who is hospitalized following a severe fall on 8/25
- Doug Sharp who has been placed on palliative care
- Doris Sick (mother of Jeff DeVoesick) who is in failing health and receiving hospice care
- Tom (dear childhood friend of Donna Berner) who has suffered from cancer since 2002 and is facing a continuous decline
- Sandra Smith (sister of Jan Sharp) as she continues chemotherapy
- Erin Schneemann (daughter of Kathy & Joe) as she faces challenges in her recovery from spinal surgery and emergency abdominal surgery
- 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

★ **We Pray for Each Other** – Each Sunday in worship we give thanks and offer prayers for those in our community whose celebrations or needs are known to us. Requests for prayers are shared in our monthly prayer listing as well, with updates available the first Sunday of each month. If you have a prayer request or an update of an existing prayer need for yourself, a family member, or friend, you can easily submit them digitally via the “pew card” at <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/>. Alternately they can be shared by contacting the church office or a pastor.

*[Click here to view and print the September 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](http://www.blcfairport.org) and to sign up for reminders and special announcements (including the STAR!)



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/BLCfairport/>



## Calendar for September 5 – September 12

(Last updated on 9/1/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, September 5

#### **Baptism**

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

### Monday, September 6

#### **Closed for Labor Day**

### Tuesday, September 7

### Wednesday, September 8

9:30 am Bible Study - Hybrid  
(In-person or [Join](#) via Zoom –  
ID 943 3691 2942)  
6:30 pm Mission & Social  
Concerns Meeting (Hybrid)  
(In-person or [Join](#) via Zoom –  
ID 812 1431 6292)  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

### Thursday, September 9

6:30 pm BLC Officers Meeting

### Friday, September 10

#### **Pastor's Sabbath**

### Saturday, September 11

9:15 am Property Committee

### Sunday, September 12

#### **Fall Kick-off**

8:55 am Worship with  
Communion (in-person  
and livestream) \***Note the  
NEW Start Time**  
10:00 am Fellowship  
10:15 am Faith Formation for All  
12:30 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Dinner  
Ministry (delivery only)

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photo Sessions:** Starting in September, the Anniversary Committee will have slots available for you and your family to update your BLC Photo Directory Photos before and after worship. Please contact GerryAnn Westcott if you'd like to volunteer or Bob Stock to sign up!

**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.

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