

 WORSHIP

 GROW

 LIVE

 CARE

 SERVE

WEEKLY STAR FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

17th 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, we offer this poem as a reflection to prepare for Sunday's theme: **I've been meaning to ask . . . where are you from?***

We Are Not Strangers

If you ask me where I'm from,
I'll tell you about the South—
about sweet tea, church pews,
slow drawls, sultry summers.
And if you pause,
then I may go on to tell you
how I'm from a family of preachers,
how I stand on the shoulders of generations
who believed that love could be the answer.
And if you're still listening even then,
I'll tell you that I'm from strong women
with tall spines who have carried the weight
of inequality on their backs with children on
their laps.
And then I'll tell you about
the kitchens that I'm from,
which have always cooked enough
food for unexpected guests—just in case.
Or I could tell you about the car
that carried us into the mountains,
summer after summer
so that we could breathe again.
That's part of where I'm from.
And if you haven't given up yet,
then I may even mention the dirt—
the earth that catches me,
the earth that holds me.
The earth that reminds me of growth.
The earth that will eventually welcome me home.
You and I aren't really strangers after all.

Prayer by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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

ARE YOU READY FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP?

Worship with Communion (in-person and online) 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, 9/19
John 1:35- 51

Lessons for Sunday, 9/26
1 Samuel 1:1-18

★ **Welcome Raelynn Clare...** our new Music Director and Organist! As Raelynn begins her new duties, she is eager to know more about the musical gifts of the Bethlehem community! Reach out to her or to one of the pastors to express your willingness to share your musical talents.

★ **BLC Chancel Bells: Rehearsals will resume Wednesday, September 22, at 6:00 pm in the bell room.** Come join us for our first rehearsal back this fall! Everyone is welcome and no prior experience is required. All you need to bring is your enthusiasm for making a joyful noise unto the Lord! High-school students are also welcome. Any questions, please contact Raelynn Clare raelynn.clare@blcfairport.org.

★ **Worship:** Our worship time each week is on Sunday at 8:55 am (both in-person and livestream). Visit [Share in Worship](#) for information on how to participate in the livestream. *Thanks for your patience last week as a family emergency and technical challenges prevented our ability to livestream worship as usual. We expect to be back on-line this week at 8:55am!* If you are joining us in-person, we ask people to wear masks while moving through our facility, in worship, and during Sunday morning faith formation activities. Look at the [Gathering Again](#) page on our website, for the latest updates. 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.

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.

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.](#)

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

The focus for September and October is to have your photo taken for our 2022 Anniversary Family Album. Striving for 100 percent participation, we have tried to make it easy - just walk into the downstairs classroom facing the courtyard either before or after worship and photographer Bob Stock and his helpers will be there waiting for you. It only takes a few minutes. You might be tempted to postpone this photo-taking request, but Bob and the committee will be busy with other anniversary events come November. There will be guest clergy and musicians returning each month, welcome back receptions, and changing displays, as well as special events like planting our anniversary tree, opening our time capsules, Prism concert, scavenger hunt, and more. If you want to wait until your family is together for the holidays, you can make an appointment with Bob, but we are hoping to capture most of the congregation's photos during the next six weeks. Please do your part to help us reach our goal!

Many have commented on the 100th Year Anniversary Tree set up in the narthex. We invite everyone to participate in recording an act of service through the anniversary year using the ornaments provided. Or you can create your own ornament – a small photograph, a drawing, a hymn title, a short prayer, poem, or quote – anything that represents your involvement in the life of BLC. There is no limit to the number of ornaments you can display. Gradually, the bare branches will be transformed into a full, glory-filled tree, reminding us of God's gifts and everlasting grace.

Have you noticed the new postings in the hallways? Called History by the Numbers, take your time to read and reflect on the power of the Holy Spirit working within and among us. More about these next week. Thanks to all who provided and compiled this information as well as the many, many people who participated in these projects!

Grow in Faith and Discipleship

★ **Faith Formation for All:** Join us each Sunday at 10:15 am!

- 6th-8th grade gathers in the Confirmation room
- 9th-12th grade gathers in the LYO Room
- Everyone else gathers in the Fellowship Hall! (children 5th grade and under will have special activities each week)

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! All groups will reconvene in the Fellowship Hall at 10:55 am Final Blessing for Everyone.

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. *We are currently doing an 8-week session which started on 9/8, studying the "I AM" statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. Each week will look at a different statement so feel free 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

Ladies' Night Out: Join the women of BLC for a Ladies' Night Out on Tuesday, October 12 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall! The theme for the evening will be "Our Bethlehem Family- Rooted, Growing, Sharing" and include a nature printing craft and music from our very own dulcimer group, among other activities! LYLAS (Love You Like a Sister) partners will be revealed at Ladies Night Out. Please bring one gift of no more than \$15.00 to present to your LYLAS as you reveal your identity. At that time, we will have information forms to fill out for participation in LYLAS for 2021-22. Sign up to attend [HERE](#) or under the LIVE portion of the kiosk in the Narthex! Masks will be required.

Love You Like a Sister (LYLAS): The Love You Like a Sister (LYLAS) program is like a prayer secret santa- each participant will be given another participant to keep in their prayers throughout the year and in turn, will have someone praying for them. The partners are kept anonymous until a final reveal at the end of the year. You can also send cards or a small gift for major holidays, birthdays, or other important dates for your partner (though not required!) If you are interested in participating for the 2021-2022 year, please complete a LYLAS information form so your partner will be able to get to know you better! Forms should be submitted by **October 24th** and can be found [HERE](#) or under the LIVE portion of the kiosk in the Narthex! Please contact Sarah Morrissette (401-338-6602 or sarahmorrissette4@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

BORED? Want to do something different? Come to the Amazing BLC Race! It's really not a race; you get points for doing things like following a clue, stacking food and matching pictures. Sign up now at <https://blcfairport.org/blc-great-race/>.

Questions? gerryannwestcott@gmail.com

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 5th Thursday of every month. **Mark your calendar for September 30. It's God's Work. Our Hands. Week!** On the 1st and 3rd 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) know if you wish to sew at home but cannot attend on Thursdays.

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

★ **Thank you!** Dear BLC members, I want to thank you for 32 wonderful years serving as part of the music staff at BLC. I truly enjoyed working with so many children during my 15 years directing the Joyful Noise and Cherub choirs and have fond memories of our rehearsals, choir parties and the summers at Camp Cory. Accompanying the Chancel Choir, providing service music, leading you in song at organ and working with a staff and congregation who appreciate and value music have brought me great joy. Thank you for the lovely send off on August 29 as well as so many cards and good wishes. It has been such a blessing for me and my family to be a part of this congregation and I look forward to continuing to worship with you.
~ Susie DePasquale

Miles to share? We are working to assist one of our 100th Anniversary guests in traveling to Fairport. Do you have frequent flier miles on American Airlines that you would be willing to donate to assist in this effort? If so, please contact Pastor Amy.

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) or Dave (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 October 13 at 6:30 pm. If you are unable to join us and have questions or feedback, please contact Julie Owen at 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 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!

Clothing give-away for Learning Links of Fairport at the Pines Sunday September 26 from 11 am -2 pm. Meet in the BLC Fellowship Room at 11 am, transport already donated clothing to the Pines, set up tables and arrange clothing for members and friends of Learning Links to take. Team leaders: Beth and Rick Walker. RSVP on the BLC Calendar of Events.

Open Door Mission Project: On **September 28** from 10 am – 12 noon, we will be working in the clothing closet – sorting, organizing, distributing clothing to support Open Door Mission. Contact Julie Owen at jowen@heritagechristianservices.org to participate or learn more!

Quilt Tying! For Lutheran World Relief! Join us on **September 30** at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Can you tie a square knot, think you need a review? If convenient, bring a small pair of scissors. Needles & thread provided. Many hands make light work! Contact GerryAnn gerryannwestcott@gmail.com with any questions!

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 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.



Council News

★ **Save the dates!** Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **October 31**. There will be a quarterly conversation on Sunday, **October 24** to review materials and prepare for our annual meeting. Check back here for additional information about how you can participate in these important conversations in the life of our congregation.

★ **BLC Investment in Ministries Fund – Learn More and Ask Questions.** Hopefully, you received in this past week's mail, a letter from the Investment in Ministries Committee more fully describing our intent to create the *BLC Investment in Ministries Fund (IMF)*, and its purpose. We also included an initial list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). As a reminder, the IMF will enable BLC to grow participation in ministry, both through personal involvement and financial assistance. We seek to establish the IMF at this time as part of BLC's 100th anniversary celebration.

While we attempted, through the FAQs, to pose and answer the key questions which the congregation would have, we know you may have others. So, we have scheduled two virtual Question and Answer sessions – one on *Monday, September 27 at 7:00 pm* and *Monday, October 11 at 7:00 pm* – for the Committee to make a very brief presentation and for you to ask us questions.

The links to the virtual meetings will appear on the BLC web site on the Events Calendar. Until then, if you have questions, please contact any member of the committee – Paulette Costanza, Mark Gaul, Roger Kolker, Julie Owen, John Panko, Neil Vokes.

Community News

★ **Service of Holy Communion with the Installation** of The Rev. Lee M. Miller II as Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod at Bethany Baptist Church, 149 Beattie St, Syracuse, NY 13224 on Saturday September 18, 2021 at 2:00 pm (Doors Open: 1:00 pm, Pre-Service Music Begins: 1:30 pm). There will be a reception will be outside following the service. Masks will need to be worn by all when inside the sanctuary. Masks are strongly encouraged to be worn outside for those vaccinated and required for those who are unvaccinated when social distancing requirements cannot be faithfully met. LIVE STREAM LINK: [facebook.com/BethanyBaptistChurchsyracuse/](https://www.facebook.com/BethanyBaptistChurchsyracuse/)
Worship Bulletin: [Holy Communion with the Installation of the Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

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

- Chris Skinner (brother-in-law of Jim Jefferis) who died on 9/6 by accidental drowning. We especially prayer for Chris' wife (Jim's sister), Suzie, and their 15-year-old twins, Caleb and Alethia, as well as the Jefferis family (Jim, Allyson, Katherine, Sarah and Anna)
- Charles Levene (father of Terri Pries) who died on 9/1

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Kris Kerr who will have surgery on 9/20
- Celia Topping who is recovering from surgery on 9/15
- Linda Juers as she recovers from a fall on 9/12
- Jim Peterson (father of Hans Walter-Peterson) who has been diagnosed with leukemia and has transitioned to hospice care
- Connie Specht who is continuing to heal following a severe fall on 8/25
- 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

[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 and to sign up for reminders and special announcements (including the STAR!)



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org



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

Calendar for September 19 – September 26

(Last updated on 9/15/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, September 19

8:55 am Worship with
Communion (in-person
and livestream)
10:00 am Fellowship
10:15 am Faith Formation for All

Monday, September 20

Tuesday, September 21

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019

Wednesday, September 22

9:30 am Bible Study - Hybrid
(In-person or [Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 943 3691 2942)
5:30 pm Pines of Perinton
Produce Give Away
6:00 pm Chancel Bell rehearsal
6:15 pm Folk Group Rehearsal
7:30 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 23

6:30 pm Church Council
([Join](#) or use ID 865 5035 0877)

Friday, September 24

Pastor's Sabbath
2:30 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, September 25

Sunday, September 26

**God's Work. Our Hands.
Week of Service begins!**

8:55 am Worship with
Communion (in-person
and livestream)
10:00 am Fellowship
10:15 am Faith Formation for All
11:00 am GWOH Clothing
& Coat Give-Away

100th 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, W, Th & 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.
