



WORSHIP



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WEEKLY STAR FOR OCTOBER 31, 2021

Reformation Sunday



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY
star



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

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Jeremiah 31.31

As we are told in the Old Testament reading for this Sunday, our relationship with God is a “Covenant.” A covenant that started with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, the lineage that became what is commonly referred to as Judaism. With its roots firmly seated in Judaism, it is not a reach to extend that covenant to include all Christians and specifically BLC. In the Bible, a covenant is a relationship based upon mutual commitments. This set of mutual commitments underpins both our personal and our communal faith journey. We publicly proclaim these commitments throughout our church year with the Apostle’s Creed, the vows we take as a congregation during baptisms, and the confirmation of our youth. We privately acknowledge these commitments in the many ways we choose to live our faith. How we choose to share our time and resources to live our faith is part of what marks us as Christians in the world. We also have opportunities to shape the manner in which BLC reflects this covenant. When we volunteer to serve in any of the myriad ways that are needed to maintain the worship life of BLC we are part of that covenant. When we work to serve others, we are part of that covenant. This Sunday we have an opportunity to be part of determining how BLC will fulfill this covenant in 2022. Our annual congregational meeting affords each of us the opportunity to have a voice in the determining the path that BLC will follow in this coming year. This year we will be electing members to represent us on church council, sending members to the 2022 Synod Assembly, voting on our spending plan, ratifying changes to the BLC constitution, and determining if we want to establish an investment fund for ministry. Each of these decisions impacts the direction that BLC takes as we collectively continue to fulfill our side of the mutual commitments that are part of our covenant with God. Please make time to participate in our annual meeting following church this Sunday, October 31st at 10:15 am, in person or virtually through Zoom.

Rick Walker

BLC Council President

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.

★ 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, 10/31

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46;
Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

Lessons for Sunday, 11/7

Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

Reformation Sunday... October 31, 2021 (this Sunday!)... Please remember to Wear RED to help celebrate.

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. 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.

★ **Altar Flowers:** The flowers on the altar this week were given to the Glory of God in memory of Cathleen Todd and Charles Fetzack (sister and brother of Sue Towsley) Do you enjoy seeing flowers on the altar? Flowers may be donated to memorialize or celebrate a special event or person. *Contact the church office to place your order!*

★ **Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord...** BLC is blessed to be endowed with many musically gifted folks! We would like to invite anyone who sings or/and plays an instrument to share your talents with the congregation for worship during Advent, Christmas and beyond. Beginning Nov. 28 and until Christmas, there will be two special music offerings during worship each Sunday. We will also revive the BLC tradition of providing a 30-minute music prelude before the Christmas Eve Family Worship. If you feel inspired to share your gifts with us to praise the glory of God, please contact Raelynn Clare, Music Director: raelynn.clare@blcfairport.org. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

★ **To Sing Is to Pray Twice...Children's Choir of BLC** will hold its first rehearsal after church in the Choir Room, on Nov. 7 at 11:15 a.m. Every child is invited to sing with us! Come join us each week for 30 minutes of singing, playing rhythm instruments, and fun. We will learn songs of Advent and Christmas to share with the congregation during worship. For more information, please contact Raelynn Clare, Music Director: raelynn.clare@blcfairport.org.

All Saints' Sunday... Sunday, November 7... The church remembers those who have lived and died in the faith, having been entrusted to God for care and keeping. In the Apostles' Creed, we confess that we believe in the communion of saints, and this Holy Day is one of the ways that we remember the faithful departed who have joined the Church Triumphant. If you would like to acknowledge a family member or a friend who has died since last All Saints' Sunday (November 1, 2020) please call the church office (585) 223-0634 or send an email to office@blcfairport.org

100th Anniversary News

100
YEARS

This is the last Sunday for walk-in photos for the 2022 Friends and Family Album. After November 1, photos will be by appointment only. If you have not already done so, be sure to see Bob Stock downstairs before and after worship to have your photo taken. We are hoping to have our Album as complete as possible and would like to have your photo included!

This is also the last Sunday to order an anniversary throw for yourself or as a Christmas gift. We will be placing an order soon to ensure the throws are here in time for the holidays. They are \$33 each – cash and checks are accepted or order online from the anniversary section of our website at www.blcfairport.org. This may be your last opportunity to place your order!

Looking ahead to November, we are excited to welcome back two of our former clergy and a former musician. On November 14, Rev. Gregory Brown (Associate Pastor from 2013–2016) will lead us in our monthly anniversary service. Pastor Greg's wife, Leah, and children Jackson, Reagan, and Tucker will accompany him.

Also returning that Sunday will be organist Dr. Catherine Rodland (Director of Choirs and Organist from 1990–1992), who will provide our prelude and postlude. Since earning her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees at Eastman, Dr. Rodland has been recognized with many prestigious awards and distinctions. She is currently Artist in Residence at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN as well as the organist of the Colonial Church of Edina, MN. She performs extensively throughout the United States and Canada and has released a number of CDs.

Also on November 14, we will sing for the first time our new anniversary hymn, listen to the Chancel Choir sing a special anthem, and watch our youngest perform the children's song – all three written and composed by our own talented people for our anniversary celebration.

The following Sunday, November 21, we will welcome Rev. David Nevergall to the pulpit. Pastor Nevergall and his family were members of BLC before he changed careers and entered the ministry. The congregation helped him financially through his years of seminary. He was ordained at Bethlehem in 1994. His wife, Karen, who served as our Financial Secretary in 1990, will be returning with him. A Welcome Back Reception will follow each of these services, giving us the opportunity to meet and greet our guests.

We encourage you to wear your name tag throughout our anniversary celebration. It will be helpful to our guests, as well as acknowledging new faces in our pews.

Grow in Faith and Discipleship

★ **Faith Formation for All:** 10/31 will not include Faith Formation for All. Instead, the whole congregation is encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting. Bethany Trippi will gather with all youth Confirmation-aged and younger in the Fellowship Hall this week for special activities during the Annual Meeting. **We will resume Faith Formation for All on 11/7.** Join us each Sunday at 10:15 am!

★ **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. Midweek Bible Study will **begin a new series on Wednesday, November 10.** Join us as we use Adam Hamilton's book and DVD "The Journey". "Using historical information, archaeological findings and personal reflections", Hamilton takes us on a journey with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Pastor Hamilton filmed on location in the Holy Land. Join us on Zoom or in person at BLC - Hope you can join us for this 6-week journey. (We will not meet the day before Thanksgiving.) If you have questions, or would like more information, contact Kathy Moragne - kathymoragne@gmail.com

Live Our Faith in Daily Life

★ **BLC Men's Breakfast... Wednesday, November 3:** Gather with the men of BLC to share good food and informal Christian fellowship. The group will meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 8 am at the The Landmark Restaurant in East Rochester. For further information, contact Jim Berner at jamesberner1@yahoo.com

Ruth Circle will meet at BLC on Monday, November 8 at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing Chapter 7 (Great Gratitude) from the book by Max Lucado, "Anxious for Nothing". All are welcome to join us for study and fellowship. Any questions, please call Ruth Kurtz at 388-2608.

ELCA National Youth Gathering: It's time to start getting ready for the ELCA National Youth Gathering Minneapolis, MN for **July 24-28, 2022!** Every 3 years around 30,000 Lutheran youth from across America come together for a week of services, worship, and community. Any youth who is in 8th-12th grade is eligible to attend the gathering this summer! Our registration deadline, including the deposit, will be due Sunday, November 19. Registration forms will be emailed to families and physical copies will be available in the LYO room. If you have any questions please contact Bethany Trippi, Bethany.trippi@blcfairport.org.

LYO Lock-In! We will be having and LYO Fall Lock-In Saturday, **November 20!** Permission forms as well as a sign-up sheet will be posted in the LYO room. Keep an eye on your email for more information about this event. We hope to see you there!

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 to all my BLC friends for your cards, calls and visits during my recent shoulder accident. The support was overwhelmingly uplifting, and I appreciate all your prayers and concern. I am on the mend and am anxiously looking forward to seeing you all soon. My heartfelt thanks, Joanne Swanson



Serve Our Neighbor

With gratitude from our mission partners

- From Advent House: “thank you for your caring and compassionate commitment to our Home. Your generosity blesses us and touches the hearts of many.”
- From Saving Grace Ministries: “thank you for your recent extremely generous offering....today because of your help, hundreds upon hundreds of lives have been positively impacted. This results in individuals finding their rightful place in society.”

A message from our friends in Puerto Rico: With generous support from BLC members, nine people participated in a transformational service trip to Puerto Rico to assist in ongoing recovery efforts. Our hosts from Eduardo Roig Lutheran Camp recently shared an update. “With your support, we were able to impact 2,614 families around Puerto Rico, making a difference in a time of great necessity. It was not only through rebuilding homes, but the love and commitment shown to each of the survivors...the volunteers were angels that not only made a difference in many people’s lives...” For a copy of the full letter, please [click here](#).

From our companion Synod in Zimbabwe: The Rev. Philip Knutson’s September newsletter is a story of connection between the ELCA – ELCZ and development work. We enthusiastically share it to raise awareness of the good work we do together with our companions in Zimbabwe. View it here: [Newsletter September 2021](#)

★ Thinksgiving 2021 - Be a Hunger Activist!

- Once again Moll Farms is teaming with BLC to provide fresh fall produce baskets for low income Perinton residents.
- Baskets will include fruits and vegetables from the farm, and a jar of honey from Beth and Rick Walker’s beehives.
- YOU can be a Hunger Activist by sponsoring one of these baskets for \$30! Donate today.
- Our goal is to provide 40 baskets for a total of \$1200.
- November 14 deadline for donating either by check or through Tithe.ly (look for Thinksgiving)!

Open Invitation: Each one of us can make a difference. Together, we make a change! Please consider joining the M&SC committee – for more information, contact Julie Owen (jowen@heritagechristianservices.org)



Council News

★ **BLC Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 31:** Join us following Worship (at 10:15 am) for our Annual Congregational Meeting. The purpose of the annual meeting is to:

- Celebrate the previous year of ministry at BLC
- Elect BLC Council and Synod Assembly members
- Review and adopt spending plans for fiscal year 2021-2022
- Ratify updates to the BLC constitution
- Approve the resolution to establish the Investment in Ministries Fund

You can [view this year's annual report here](#), and hard copies will be available at the Annual Meeting on the 31st. We will be offering two ways to participate in the meeting:

1. In person at BLC, stay in the sanctuary following worship
2. Zoom conference call: Use the Join Now Button on the BLC Calendar of Events, or use Meeting ID 831 9366 3824

If you missed the Forum on October 24 you can access a [replay here](#). If you would like a draft of the slides for Sunday's meeting, please contact Liana Thibault at thibault.liana@gmail.com.

★ **Offering Envelopes:** In an effort to be good stewards of our paper resources, we will not order offering envelopes for you this year, unless you specifically request them on or before the end of 2021. Doing so is easy! Visit <https://blcfairport.org/request-2022-offering-envelopes/>, contact the church office or Dave Wideman (dwideman5@gmail.com or 585-309-3618) to request envelopes. Envelopes should be available before the end of the year.

★ **Financial Statements:** As year-end 2021 approaches, this would be a good time to review your financial commitment to BLC. If you would like to see a summary of your giving so far this year, please feel free to request a preliminary financial statement so you can plan your giving for the rest of the year. Please contact the BLC financial secretary, Dave Wideman, in person or by email: dwideman5@gmail.com, or by phone at 585-309-3618.

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

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- Alex and Rachel who were married on 10/16/21

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Jim (father of Hans) as he continues his end-of-life journey on hospice
- Jerry who has been diagnosed with acute Leukemia and remains hospitalized at RGH
- Cori (daughter of Tom & Marcy) as she recovers from surgery on 10/26
- Waverly (friend of Bob & Phyllis) who is recovering from gall bladder surgery on 10/20
- 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 October 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 October 31 – November 7

(Last updated on 10/27/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 10/31

Reformation Sunday (wear red!)

8:55 am Worship with
Communion (in-person
and livestream)
10:00 am Fellowship
10:15 Annual
Congregational Meeting
(in-person or [Join](#) via
Zoom – ID 831 9366
3824)

Monday, 11/1

7:00 pm Peace Corps
Group Meeting

Tuesday, 11/2

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting

Wednesday, 11/3

8:00 am Men's Breakfast
at the Landmark Family
Restaurant
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 Bells
6:15 pm Folk Group
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, 11/4

6:30 pm BLC Officers
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 814 2532 5342)
7:00 pm BLC Quilters

Friday, 11/5

Pastor's Sabbath
2:30 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, 11/6

Sunday, 11/7

Daylight Savings Time Ends

All Saints' Sunday

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

100th Anniversary Photo Sessions: October 31 is the last Sunday for walk-in photos for the 2022 Friends and Family Album. After November 1, photos will be by appointment only. If you have not already done so, be sure to see Bob Stock downstairs before and after worship to have your photo taken. We are hoping to have our Album as complete as possible and would like to have your photo included!

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.
