

CLOSE to HOME

Sunday worship with Communion
8:55am (in-person or livestream!)

Faith Formation for All
December 5, 12, & 19 at 10:15am

Christmas Eve Worship
5:30pm (in-person only) &
7:30pm (in-person or livestream)
w/prelude beginning at 7pm

*When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. **Close to Home** acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day – our everlasting home – is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us. Come home to BLC this season. Read on to learn more!*

November 28 - Advent 1 - "Homesick" (Hope)

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 and Luke 21:25-26

With deep longing, we watch for God. Thankfully, God enters a homesick world.

December 5 - Advent 2 - "Laying the Foundation" (Peace)

Philippians 1:3-11 and Luke 1:57-80

We make space – in our lives and our imaginations – for God’s blessings to break through.

December 12 - Advent 3 - "A Home for All" (Joy)

Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Luke 3:1-18

John the Baptist’s good news sounds harsh, but he preaches a home for all.

December 19 - Advent 4 - "Seeking Sanctuary" (Love)

Luke 1:46b-55 (Magnificat) and Luke 1:39-55

Sanctuary is anywhere God’s love dwells freely and abundantly.

December 24 - Christmas Eve – “Invited Home”

Luke 2:1-20

At 5:30pm, be part of re-telling the story of Christmas in our Pop-Up Christmas pageant! No rehearsal required! We are all part of sharing the good news this night in story and song!

At 7:30pm, we’ll sing carols, share communion, and welcome the good news of great joy for all people!

December 26 – “Chosen Home”

Colossians 2:41-52 and Luke 2:41-52

Jesus claims and takes up space, choosing to dwell where God has chosen him to be.

January 2 – Epiphany Lessons and Carols – “Home By Another Way”

Through Scripture and song, remember the whole story of Christmas – from prophecies to shepherds to Magi. Sometimes, we too must make bold choices to choose a different way.

Wondering how to join via livestream? Go to www.blcfairport.org and click on “Share in Worship”

More Ways to Celebrate this Advent/Christmas Season!

Close to Home...at home! Use the **Advent calendar** (found on the inside of this invite!) to count down to Christmas! Do the prompt and color in the number (begins December 1) to mark the passing of time. Looking for something more? Our Advent/Christmas theme this year includes a **devotional booklet** that allows you to go deeper with art, poetry, songs and reflections that connects with our weekly worship. Black and white copies are available in the narthex. Looking for a digital version or want to see that artwork in color? Contact the church office – we can provide either by request!



Make a joyful noise! Sundays of Advent include additional special music every week and our Christmas Eve celebration includes two in-person worship opportunities and an extended prelude! Want to add your voice or instrument? Sign up at <https://blcfairport.org/music-sign-up/> or contact Raelynn Clare, Music Director: raelynn.clare@blcfairport.org for more information!

Sunday, November 28 following worship at 10:15 am: Wreath-making and more! Make a festive wreath to decorate your home, get in the spirit of the season with some holiday activities (for all ages!) and visit with your BLC friends as we begin the Advent season together! Be sure to sign up at <https://blcfairport.org/wreath-sign-up/> ASAP or contact the church office if you'd like to make a wreath (all supplies provided, along with expert guidance from our resident horticulturist, Brain Edwards!)



Sunday, November 28 at 6:30 pm: 5th Annual Tree Lighting! Continue the tradition begun at the home of Tom and Gert Edwards, as we light the blue spruce at our BLC home on the corner of our building. We'll gather on the front steps of the church and share light refreshments afterwards – all outdoors, so bring your mittens! If you cannot attend in person, watch via Livestream on Bethlehem's Facebook page. Together, we will mark the holiday season by remembering God's promise: *"And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can not overcome it!"* (John 1:5)

Saturday, December 11 at 9:30 am: Decorate our Church Home! Hang the greens, put the Chrismon ornaments on the tree, set up the nativity and otherwise help us deck our halls. Contact Bob Stock (rstock@rochester.rr.com or 585-329-2550) if you'd like to participate.



Poinsettia Orders Forms are due on Sunday, **December 12**. Visit <https://blcfairport.org/poinsettia-sale/> (the link is also in the 'Right Now' menu on our website) to place your order for poinsettias and/or make a donation to support Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) in honor or memory of your loved one. (LIRS). *LIRS is the largest faith-based nonprofit dedicated to serving vulnerable immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the U.S. **Simply put, we resettle refugees, reunite children and parents, and rekindle the American Dream.** For more than 80 years, LIRS*

has been a champion for migrants and refugees from around the globe. Our legacy of compassionate service has made a difference in the lives of more than 500,000 people who have sought safety and hope in America's communities. Our history reflects our own deep immigrant roots and passionate commitment to welcoming newcomers, especially those who are most in need. (<https://www.lirs.org/about/>)

Angel Tree: Share God's love by fulfilling a need from the Angel Tree! Look for the Angel Tree in the narthex on or shortly after November 28 with angel tags listing the requested gift item. Take a tag (or several if you'd like), purchase the gift, wrap and affix the angel tag to the outside of the package. Please contact the church office if you would like a tag mailed to you. There will be boxes in the fellowship hall to collect the gifts. All gifts should be returned to church by **December 19 by 9 am** so they can be delivered on time!

