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WEEKLY STAR FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2021

*All Saints' Sunday*



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WEEKLY  
*star*



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

## All Saints Day

### Deeper understandings – November 2018

By: Benjamin M. Stewart

*This article originally appeared in Living Lutheran's November 2018 issue. Reprinted with permission. © ELCA.*

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/10/all-saints-day/>

There is a lot of meaning packed into the word all in All Saints. Let's explore the day through this simple word.

All includes some most beloved to us. [All Saints](#) calls to mind specific individuals: particular beloved faces, names and memories. On All Saints, your congregation might name in worship your loved ones who have died in the past year, alternating the names with a bell or a sung prayer of thanksgiving. Some congregations set aside places for photos of loved ones among candles and images of other saints. We may be all too aware of the particular names we are now carrying with us toward All Saints this year—names of those who have died in the past months.

All includes those beloved by others. All Saints creates a space that embraces with honor the multitudes of individuals among the beloved dead. We see their faces, say their names, and recognize in the worshipers around us others who carry their own memories and litanies of saints. All Saints sets out a place for all of them—an assembly the book of Revelation describes as “a number no one could count” with saints “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages” (7:9). All Saints brings into focus our own beloved dead while also stretching our imagination toward the whole company of saints, more diverse and populous than we can fully comprehend.

All are saved by grace. The festival originally honored those who were considered especially holy: heroic figures from the Scriptures and martyrs who had given their lives nonviolently in witness to the faith. However, it is an especially Lutheran accent for the feast to honor not only those who lived exemplary lives, but all who have been baptized into Christ's death. For Lutherans, All Saints resonates with the conviction that in Christ every saint is a sinner and every sinner a saint, *simul justus et peccator*. Lutherans especially remember on this feast that it is God's grace, apart from our works, that makes us saints. We find lasting rest only in the mercy of God.

We share a mortal, earthy nature with all humans and all living creatures on the planet. Death is an inevitable part of life for all of us. It is part of our citizenship as earth creatures. In the Bible's wisdom literature, the word all is like a bell ringing to remind us of the lesson of Ash Wednesday: *The fate of humans and the fate of animals is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath .... All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again* (Ecclesiastes 3:19-20). John's Gospel uses seed imagery: *Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit* (12:24). All Saints proclaims a mystery. We remain in communion with those who have returned to the earth ahead of us.

We wait with all creation. All Saints is commemorated when much of the North American landscape appears to be dying down. Days are shorter, tree branches are becoming bare, the air is colder and fields have been stripped of their harvest. November begins a cycle of readings extending through Advent in which the themes of death and danger are in dialogue with our deepest hopes. As the sun sinks lower in the sky each day, our Scripture texts help us seek answers to a searing question:

“How can we live in hope and integrity when it looks like the end of the world?” All Saints begins a season in which we contemplate the hopes and fears of all creation, watching and waiting for signs of a new day dawning for all of us.

The themes of All Saints extend into all of Christian life. We call to mind every Sunday the great company of saints as we join their unending hymn around the communion table. We bear witness to new saints being born from the baptismal waters. Perhaps we visit a cemetery on the anniversary of a death or on other church festivals. Many congregations include every week a final petition in the intercessions giving thanks for the lives of saints who died during the week in this or a past year. Some Christians are rediscovering natural burial as a way to honor our return to the earth in hope alongside all living creatures. And every time we see the sign of the cross or trace it on our bodies, we remember the one whose death and resurrection has formed this company of all the saints, hallowing all our lives and deaths.

All Saints reimagines the world—all of it. Even in death, God is making all things new.

★ *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, 11/7**  
1 Kings 17: 8-16; Psalm 146;  
Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

**Lessons for Sunday, 11/14**  
Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8

★ **Daylight Savings Time** – Change your clocks on **November 6!**

★ **This week on All Saints' Sunday** we remember those who have lived and died in the faith. 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 those who have gone before us. *Please note that even if your loved one is not listed in print, we invite you to light a candle during service to acknowledge all those who have died since last All Saints' Sunday.*

**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:** 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 November 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](mailto: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 November 7 at 11:15 am. Every child is invited to sing with us! Come join us each week through December 19 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](mailto:raelynn.clare@blcfairport.org).

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

# 100 YEARS

Next Sunday, November 14, please help us welcome back Rev. Gregory Brown (Associate Pastor from 2013–2016) and his family, and Dr. Catherine Rodland (Director of Choirs and Organist from 1990–1992) to our anniversary worship service. Pastor Greg, currently pastor of St. David Lutheran Church in West Columbia, SC, will lead us in worship. Dr. Rodland is Artist in Residence at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, as well as the organist of the Colonial Church of Edina, MN. She will provide both the prelude and postlude. You will also have the opportunity to hear three new pieces of music written especially for our celebration by our own people - an anniversary hymn, a special anthem sung by the Chancel Choir, and a children's song focusing on our theme of Rooted, Growing, and Sharing.

The following Sunday, November 21, our guest preacher will be Rev. David Nevergall. His wife, Karen, (Financial Secretary in 1990) will join him. Pastor Nevergall, a former member, was ordained at BLC in 1994. He is now senior pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron, OH. Welcome back receptions in the Fellowship Hall will follow both of these services. Please remember to wear your name tag as we meet and greet our guests.

Have you noticed the anniversary banner is now hanging in our sanctuary next to the Good Shepherd window? Having hung outside our building facing Church Street for the past three months, it will now hang in its new home for the remainder of our celebration. Many thanks to our Property Committee for making this move possible.

Lastly, take some time to check out the computer stations in the narthex. Each is set up with directions to view the self-paced interactive programs covering topics ranging from the history of our church windows to over 20 videotaped member interviews dating back to 2015. Put on the headphones and pick and choose what interests you. Listen as time allows, and then return later to explore another topic. You will discover many new and interesting things about Bethlehem and its people!



## Grow in Faith and Discipleship

★ **Faith Formation in November:** Join us each Sunday at 10:15 am!

- **November 7:** Adults will gather in the Fellowship Hall, and **new this week**, pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will gather in the Sunday School wing. Confirmation and LYO will start in their rooms as usual, and we'll all gather back in the Fellowship Hall at 10:55 am. For all ages, our time together builds on the Scripture and theme for Sunday worship, so that households can continue the conversation throughout the week.
- **November 14 & November 21** Adults are encouraged to celebrate with the anniversary guests in the fellowship hall. Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will gather in the Sunday School wing. Confirmation and LYO will start in their rooms as usual, and we'll all gather back in the Fellowship Hall at 10:55 am. For all ages, our time together builds on the Scripture and theme for Sunday worship, so that households can continue the conversation throughout the week.
- **November 28: Family Advent Sunday returns!** There will be no breakout rooms for specific age groups. Everyone is invited to participate in the activities (which includes wreath-making!) Details and sign-ups to follow!

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



## Live Our Faith in Daily Life

**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 Friday, 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](mailto: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. You can visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-on-the-go/> anytime to submit your event and view upcoming opportunities!

## Care for One Another

★ **A Support Group for caregivers... Tuesday, November 9:** If you are caregiving for a loved one, an elderly parent, spouse, relative or other loved one, feel free to join us! We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

★ **Funeral for Jim Peterson (father of Hans Walter-Peterson) on November 11 at 4 pm...** While we can't surround Pastor Amy and Hans in person as they commend Jim to God's eternal mercy and care, we can participate virtually. If you would like to do so, visit <https://www.centralmpls.org>.

## 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."

### Thinks-giving 2021 - Be a Hunger Activist! (sign-up at <https://blcfairport.org/thinks-giving-2021/>)

- 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 donated 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 Thinks-giving)!

★ **Sunday, November 21, 11:15 am – 12:30 pm** Join the great give-away of Thinks-giving boxes at the Pines of Perinton Maintenance Shed. RSVP on the [Calendar of Events](#) or at [BLC on the go!](#) Contact Julie Owen or Beth/Rick Walker [rbowsend@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rbowsend@rochester.rr.com) if you have questions.

**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](mailto:jowen@heritagechristianservices.org))





## Council News

**★BLC Annual Congregational Meeting recap:** Last Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> members of the congregation gathered both in person and via Zoom for our Annual Meeting. We passed 7 recommendations for the coming year. Lisa Rosenbauer (second term), Toni Thompson (first term), and Aderyn Gantner (first term) were elected as Council members. We're delighted to continue our practice of having a youth serve on Council with the addition of Aderyn who is in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Lisa Rosenbauer, Marcy Adams, and Ruth Hedin (alternate) were elected as our Synod Assembly voting members. Three financial recommendations were approved for Fiscal Year 2022:

1. Operating spending plan up to \$417,323. BLC will operate at a deficit budget for 2022 of about \$17,000. Investment and rental income are not included as part of our projected income for the year, but based on historical receipts, these would significantly offset our deficit.
2. Special missions funding of \$30,000. We ended Fiscal Year 2021 with \$42,566 more in receipts than expense. Council recommended using some of the surplus funds to donate to missions outside BLC's walls. An ad-hoc committee has been created to work with the congregation on developing recommendations for using these funds. If you have suggestions, please contact Alan Sleeman who is chairing the committee.
3. Capital reserve spending up to \$5,000. We are looking to improve ventilation systems in the building, specifically in the sanctuary. Preliminary research shows the project should be around \$5,000 to complete.

The Constitution changes approved at the Special Congregational Meeting in July were ratified. Changes included wording updates as recommended by the Synod, as well as changing the Treasurer to an Officer position on Council. Finally, the congregation approved a resolution creation of an Investment in Ministry Fund for BLC. This resolution creates an endowment fund outside of BLC's operating budget to invest further in ministries outside the walls of BLC. The committee's next step is to develop the bylaws and policies of the fund which will be brought before the congregation for consideration and vote. We are grateful for the ways God continues to bless BLC and look forward to new opportunities as a congregation in 2022.

**★ Support BLC While Doing Your Christmas Shopping!** Did you know that BLC can benefit from your online shopping? Sign up for AmazonSmile and choose Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fairport, NY as your designated charity. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items to BLC. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. With the Christmas shopping season ramping up, this would be a great opportunity to participate in this program! To get more information or to sign up and shop, go to <https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/community/how-to-sign-up-for-amazon-smile> from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Contact [Glenda Lockard](#) for more information.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:dwideman5@gmail.com), or by phone at 585-309-3618.

**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!)



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

**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:*

- Jim Peterson (father of Hans Walter-Peterson) who died on 10/29

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

- Rick Slattery as he anticipates cardiac surgery on 11/8
- Jerry Thompson who has been diagnosed with acute Leukemia and remains hospitalized at RGH
- Cori Adams (daughter of Tom & Marcy Adams) as she recovers from surgery on 10/26
- Waverly (friend of Bob & Phyllis Stock) 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

**★ 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 November long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!*

## Calendar for November 7 – November 14

(Last updated on 11/3/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### 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  
11:15 am Children's Choir

### Monday, 11/8

1:00 pm Ruth Circle

### Tuesday, 11/9

2:00 pm Support Group  
for Caregivers  
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019  
Meeting

### Wednesday, 11/10

9:30 am Bible Study –  
Hybrid (In-person or  
[Join](#) via Zoom –  
ID 943 3691 2942)  
6:30 pm Mission & Social  
Concerns – Hybrid (In-person  
or [Join](#) via Zoom –  
ID 812 1431 6292)  
6:00 pm Chancel Bells  
6:15 pm Folk Group  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, 11/11

6:30 pm Girl Scout  
Troop Meeting

### Friday, 11/12

**Pastor's Sabbath**  
2:30 pm Dulcimer Group  
Rehearsal

### Saturday, 11/13

9:15 am Property  
Committee

### Sunday, 11/14

#### **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday**

8:55 am Worship with  
Communion with guests  
Pastor Greg Brown and  
Catherine Rodland,  
organist  
(in-person and  
livestream) with  
reception following (in  
Fellowship Hall)!  
10:15 am Faith  
Formation for pre-K  
through LYO  
11:15 am Children's Choir  
12:30 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
Dinner Ministry  
(delivery only)

**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.

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