



I am a gardener. I am familiar with roots. Roots appear first when a seed grows. They push down into the soil seeking nourishment to fuel the plant, pushing it upwards into the world. Without the roots, there is no plant.

The plant is not sustained entirely by the roots. The plant interacts with the world using sun for energy, CO₂ for food, and insects for propagation. Without the plant growing above the ground, the roots die. Foundational soil anchors both roots and plant. When the life of the plant is complete, it decomposes and becomes one with the soil.

The soil does not judge the seed. Seeds and plants do not judge each other. A rose cannot force a pumpkin to change. Each flourish as they were meant to. Each plant, with its roots, has a unique relationship to the soil and the world. Each plant blooms when the time is right.

This is the lesson of the garden:

- ❖ The soil is the Sacred, rich in unconditional love and patience; a constant and intentional source of life for all.
- ❖ We begin as seeds, instinctively seeking nourishment from the Sacred.
- ❖ Drawing on this rich and sustaining resource, we push out into the world.
- ❖ We are both root and plant. One part grounded and rooted in unbelievable love. One part experiencing and responding to the world. These parts cannot exist without each other.
- ❖ We go into the world, not to fix, change, or judge others, but to experience and learn about ourselves so we can grow in the world and in our relationship with the Sacred.
- ❖ Every person is where they need to be in their relationship with the Sacred at any given point in time. We cannot know the extent of anyone else's roots or their relationship with the Holy One. It is our own roots, our own growth, that makes the garden beautiful in the company of others.
- ❖ When our life is complete, we return to that source of unconditional love.
- ❖ Roots. Growth. Love. Thanks be to God!

Beth Walker

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, 11/14
Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8

Lessons for Sunday, 11/21
John 18:33-37; Revelation 1.4b-8

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. This week, we welcome special guests, Pastor Greg Brown (who served as Associate Pastor from 2013-2016) and Dr. Catherine Rodland, organist (who served from 1990-1992) as part of our year-long 100th anniversary celebration. We are *rooted, growing and sharing* together!

★ **Altar Flowers:** The flowers on the altar this week were given anonymously to the Glory of God and in honor of BLC's 100th Anniversary Celebration Year! 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. Visit <https://blcfairport.org/music-sign-up/> to sign-up! We look forward to hearing from you soon!

To Sing Is to Pray Twice... Children's Choir of BLC rehearses on Sundays at 11:15 am in the choir room. 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. Visit <https://blcfairport.org/music-sign-up/> to sign up. For more information, please contact Raelynn Clare, Music Director: raelynn.clare@blcfairport.org.

100th Anniversary News

100 YEARS

It is a special delight to welcome Rev. Gregory Brown and his family, as well as Dr. Catherine Rodland 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 organist at the Colonial Church of Edina, MN. She will provide both the prelude and postlude. You can read more about our guests in the bulletin insert

Three new pieces of music written especially for our celebration – a hymn, an anthem, and a children's song, will be introduced today. Thank you to our fellow members who wrote the lyrics and composed the music for these special commemorative pieces.

Sunday, November 21 features Rev. David Nevergall as our guest pastor. Pastor Nevergall is Senior Pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron, OH. His wife, Karen, will accompany him.

Welcome back receptions in the Fellowship Hall will follow both of these services. Please remember to wear your name tag as we welcome our guests.

Through our Anniversary celebration, there will be 19 returning guests: 12 clergy and 7 musicians. Keeping within the health guidelines during these COVID times means our guests have been asked to change their scheduled dates 3 - 4 times. Bob Stock shares that each time he has called, our invitees have responded: "Yes! We still want to come ... just let us know when you want us there." We are indeed blessed by their faithfulness and by their presence with us.

Remember to check out the five computer workstations in the narthex. Each is set up with easy-to-follow directions to view the self-paced interactive programs covering more about our history, our stain glass windows, our tracker action organ, our BLC clergy and musicians, and more! Take a few moments to sit, put on the headphones, pick what interests you...and enjoy!



Grow in Faith and Discipleship

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

- **November 14 & November 21** Adults are encouraged to celebrate with the anniversary guests in the fellowship hall. Pre-K to 5th 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, sign up below!)

★ **Sign up for wreath-making on November 28 at 10:15am!** Make a festive wreath to decorate your home! All supplies provided, along with expert guidance from our resident horticulturist, Brain Edwards. This is a popular activity, so we do need to know you're coming! Sign up at <https://blcfairport.org/wreath-sign-up/> or contact the church office if you have any questions.

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 began 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

★ **Men's Lunch...Wednesday, November 17:** Gather with the men of BLC to share good food and informal Christian fellowship. The group will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1 pm at the Penfield Wegmans. For further information, contact Jim Berner at jamesberner1@yahoo.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 will continue tying on the 5th Thursday of every month. 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.

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

★ **Give the gift of Gratitude!** We have a wonderful card ministry to remember our homebound members throughout the year. In this season of thanksgiving, you are encouraged to take a moment to send notes of gratitude and encouragement to any and all of the people in our BLC community. If you would like to join the Card Ministry, contact [Donna Berner](#) or 585-314-5732

★ **RIDE NEEDED:** Would you be willing to provide a ride to worship? We have a member of the BLC community who lives in Brighton who can no longer drive, but would like to be able to worship in person. If you're able to serve in this way, please let Pastor Amy know.



Serve Our Neighbor

★ **2nd Sunday Dinner Ministry on November 14! 2nd Sunday Dinner Ministry on November 14!** *"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. We have an urgent need for one more delivery person to ride along with a delivery driver and deliver meals to the Fairport Apartments. If you would like more information or would be able to help, please contact Paulette Costanza at 585-223-9255 or 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!

★ **Did you know?** Thrivent Action Team Grants (<https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-action-teams.html>) secured by BLC members have strong community impact. From providing fresh fruit and vegetables to those in need to supporting hands-on hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico...and so much more! If you have an account with Thrivent and are interested in supporting the missions of BLC through a Thrivent grant, please reach out to Julie Owen at jowen@heritagechristianservices.org to learn more. The process is simple and the results profound.

Choice Dollars are another option for Thrivent members to consider in support of BLC and our mission partners (<https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html>). Through Thrivent Choice, you can contribute to organizations and causes you care about – and influence how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable funding.

Donate by Sunday, 11/14! 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 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)!

Sunday, November 21, 11:15am – 12:30pm 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 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)



Council News

★ **Stay in the communication loop at BLC!** As the weather begins to change this season, we want to make sure you know where to find information about whether the church will be open for such unexpected circumstances in the future. When we cancel all activities, we use the following methods to get the word out:

- Notify the local channel of our closing (13wham.com/weather/closings)
- Send an email using the BLC Congregational Announcements subscription list
- Post an update to the BLC Facebook page
- Attempt to directly contact those we know are scheduled to be involved (worship assistants, committees, etc).
- Update the office voicemail and email auto-reply about the cancellation
- Lastly, we ask for your help! If you see the message, share the info. Not everyone has real-time access, and you can help spread the word by contacting those you are closest to!

BLC Annual Congregational Meeting recap: On October 31st, 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 9th 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 polices 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](mailto:Glenda.Lockard@bclcfairport.org) 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 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 pray for those who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:

- Jeffrey Purvis (nephew of Bob & Becki, cousin of Karl) who died on 11/8
- Jim Walter-Peterson (father of Hans) who died on 10/29

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Rick Slattery as he recovers at home following cardiac surgery on 11/8
- Jerry Thompson as he returns home following hospitalization for cancer treatment
- 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 November 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!)



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

Calendar for November 14 – November 21

(Last updated on 11/10/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 11/14

100th Anniversary Sunday

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

Monday, 11/15

Tuesday, 11/16

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting

Wednesday, 11/17

9:30 am Bible Study –
Hybrid (In-person or
[Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 943 3691 2942)
1:00 pm Men's Lunch at
Penfield Wegmans
6:00 pm Chancel Bells
6:15 pm Folk Group
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, 11/18

6:30 pm Council ([Join](#) via
Zoom
– ID 818 7910 2136)
7:00 pm BLC Quilters

Friday, 11/19

Pastors' Sabbath

2:30 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, 11/20

7:00 pm LYO Lock-in

Sunday, 11/21

Christ the King Sunday

8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guest
Pastor David Nevergall
(in-person
and livestream) with
reception following
(Fellowship Hall)
10:15 am Faith
Formation for pre-K
through LYO
11:15 am Children's
Choir

Pastor Hoffman is on vacation November 17 - 28.

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.
