

Sunday, January 9, 2022

"Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long and how deep his love is."

Ephesians 3:17b-18 (NLT)



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ <u>www.blcfairport.org</u> The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

## Welcome!

We are so glad to have you share in worship at Bethlehem today. If you are visiting, please introduce yourself to one of the pastors – they would love to greet you personally! At this time, we ask all worshipers to wear masks in worship.

**Today's service will be recorded and live-streamed.** Our camera operators take care to focus on worship leaders and don't regularly film worshipers. In the movement of the service, glimpses of people may occur. Please speak with a pastor if you have concerns.

**Communicate with us:** Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <a href="https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/">https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/</a> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

Children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship. We have designated space within the sanctuary (underneath the window of Jesus, the Good Shepherd) that is reserved for families who may need additional space for strollers or carriers for children who cannot yet wear masks. If there is a way we can make worship a more hospitable environment for your family, please speak to a pastor or leave a comment through our website (see above).

**Hearing assistance:** Our sound system is equipped with personal hearing loop devices. Please ask an usher for a loop device.

**Holy Communion:** All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please speak with one of our pastors.) Please see additional notes about the Sacrament in the service portion of the bulletin.

Our Perrin Street entrance is accessible. Please ask an usher or greeter for help if you need assistance operating the lift.

**Please silence your cell phones:** As a courtesy to others, we ask that you please silence your cell phones during worship.

## **Today's Worship Team**

We all contribute to 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. Are you willing to serve in one of these additional roles to contribute to worship this week? Put your name on the sign-up in the narthex and grab the corresponding bulletin so we know the role is filled by you!

**Acolyte:** Lights the altar candles during the prelude and extinguishes altar candles during the final hymn, bringing the light of Christ out into the world! May robe and sit on the chancel or sit within the congregation during worship. All ages who can safely handle fire and reach the candles are welcome to serve!

**Glass Washer:** Washes communion glasses either immediately following worship or after Faith Formation for All. Instructions are posted in the sacristy. Many hands make light work so grab a friend to help! (This is also a great opportunity for a household to serve together!)

**Offering:** Sit in the congregation and bring the offering trays from the entrance of the sanctuary forward to the altar during the offertory, giving our congregation's gifts to the glory of God! Pair up with a child if you'd like, so they can have a hands-on role in worship!

**Communion Assistants (2):** Sit in the congregation and come forward at the time of communion (when the congregation begins to sing "Lamb of God") to serve the wine/grape juice for communion. Must be able to hold a tray steady and speak the words, "Blood of Christ shed for you!"

**Intercessory Prayer Readers (3):** From your seat, speak the highlighted petition as part of the intercessory prayers on behalf of the congregation.

Thank you also to those serving as Assisting Minister, leading the Children's Sermon, providing Special Music, and serving on Altar Guild, Bread Guild, Wine Guild, Hospitality Team (Usher, Greeter and Fellowship Hosts) and Livestream Team! For more information about any of these roles or to sign up to serve, please contact Beth in the church office or one of the Pastors.

Thank you for your participation and your overflowing grace and encouragement to one another as we work together to bring worship to life each week!

## Sunday, January 9, 2022 ~ Baptism of Our Lord Anniversary Sunday

Prelude: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY Ludwig van Beethoven setting: Paul Manz

Each anniversary Sunday celebration is an opportunity to remember the ways that our worship is rooted in the past, even as we are growing together and sharing in faith today. Today, in addition to welcoming Pastor Lori Nickoloff to lead worship, we are also using the baptismal font from BLC's original worship space. As we remember our baptism today, we remember that we are baptized into a community of God's people that spans generations, here and throughout the world.

Today's worship features a favorite hymn of our guest today, as well as a number of hymns that are listed as "BLC Favorites" — those hymns BLC worshipers counted among our favorites when asked in spring of 2020. Our offertory (and one of those favorite hymns!) comes from the Common Service Book of the Lutheran Church (noted as the CSB in today's bulletin), which was first published in 1917. The liturgy and hymns of the CSB supported BLC at our founding! You'll likely recognize the selections as they are still found in our hymnody today.

Each year, on the Sunday after Epiphany (January 6) we affirm our baptism, celebrating that God has chosen us as beloved children. Each week throughout the season after Epiphany, we are focusing on the responsibilities entrusted to us – as individuals and a community – in response to God's love for us at baptism. (Review these promises in the hymnal on page 228!)

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

#### SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

## Affirmation of Baptism:

Voice 1: When you were baptized, a cloud of witnesses gathered to speak promises on behalf of the whole Christian church. Today we are invited to affirm these same promises, claiming our call to a full-contact faith and our active participation in the nurturing of our spirits and the work of the church on earth.

Voice 2: I ask you to join the cloud of witnesses in practicing your faith and keeping these responsibilities:

To pray daily,
To hear the world of God and share the Supper
To learn the prayers, creeds, and commandments,
To open the holy Scriptures
To be nurtured by the faith and prayer of others,

So that you learn to trust God, Proclaim Christ through word and deed,

To live among God's faithful people,

Care for others and the world God made,

And work for justice and peace.

## I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Voice 1: Siblings in Christ, receive this blessing: This is a blessing
That remembers your baptism
And tells the story
Even if your memory cannot.

It watched a community Gather around you. It heard the water poured And felt the love expand.

This blessing will travel Every distance with assurance That baptism's promise Does not wear thin over time. The gift is hardy and sure.

You could not break it if you tried.

Live has a firm grip on you,

Beloved One.

It is more than enough.

And so are you.

We are seeking—

deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.

We are seeking—

joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit, a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.

We are seeking—

the freedom to be, the courage to love, the conviction to act in the face of injustice.

We are seeking, but here in this space,

We are found.

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

God is here. We are found. Amen.

Gathering Hymn:

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

**CSB 42** 

This hymn is a BLC favorite!

(See the following page for music)



- 3 He shall come down like showers
  Upon the fruitful earth;
  And love, joy, hope, like flowers,
  Spring in His path to birth.
  Before Him on the mountains
  Shall peace, the herald, go;
  Of righteousness the fountains
  From hill to valley flow.
- 4 Kings shall fall down before Him,
  And gold and incense bring;
  All nations shall adore Him,
  His praise all people sing.
  To Him shall prayer unceasing,
  And daily yows ascend;
  His kingdom still increasing,
  A kingdom without end.

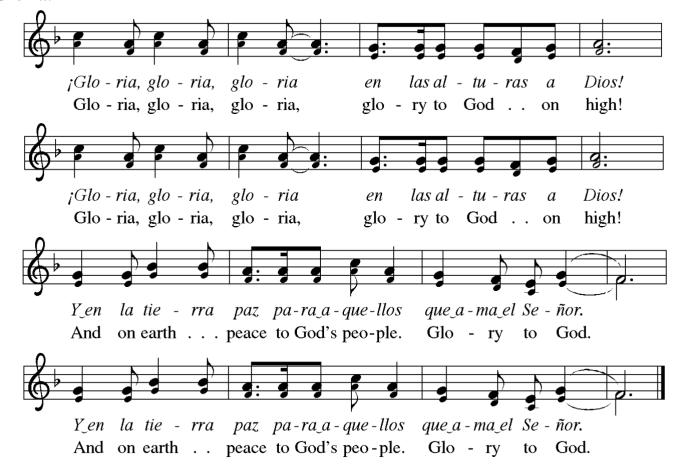
James Montgomery, 1821

#### Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

#### Gloria:



Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

#### Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. Almighty God,

you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

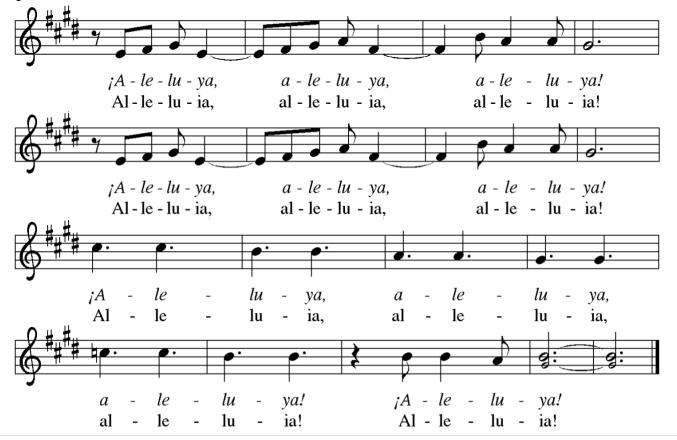
Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup>For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— <sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:



Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

The gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

## Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him

in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Praise to you, O Christ.

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day:	I Bind unto Mysel	f Today	ELW #450
ST 1 - 1 <sup>st</sup> tim	ne/choir	$ST 1 - 2^{nd} time/All$	
ST 2/ choir o	nly	ST 3/ All	
ST 4 - 1 <sup>st</sup> tim	e/ choir only - Line 1	$ST 4 - 2^{nd} \text{ time/ All}$	- Line 2
ST 5 / All	-		

## The Prayers of the People:

Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

#### A brief silence.

#1 By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace, hear our prayer.

#2 You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace,

## hear our prayer.

#3 Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,

## hear our prayer.

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. We pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families Ann & Gary, Lori, Howard & Janet, Jim & Marcia, and Mike (Ethan), as well our sisters and brother in our twinned

parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace,

## hear our prayer.

You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need.

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

- Joyce (mother of Jane) who died on 1/4
- Bill (brother of Bob) who died on 1/1

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Keith, brother of Amy, recovering from an accident
- Susan, mother of Hans, who is undergoing testing for a tumor
- Riley, nephew of Kathy, recovering from surgery on 12/28
- Chris, nephew-in-law of Mary, who is hospitalized and seriously ill with Covid
- 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

And those whose needs we name before you.

God of grace,

## Hear our prayer.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

## **WE SHARE GOD'S MEAL:**

The Peace:

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet those with whom you worship physically with a sign of peace. At home, extend the peace of Christ through the comments section or text to those who are at a distance.

## Offering

Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. We celebrate the opportunity to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources.

If you would like to make a one-time gift electronically, scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page. For recurring gifts, download the Tithe.ly app. Checks may also be mailed to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450. Those worshipping in person may leave their offerings in the basket in the narthex.

Whatever form your offering takes, we give thanks to God for you and your generosity.

Offering of Music: Down to the River to Pray

Traditional Spiritual Quoting "Shall We Gather at the River" Lloyd Larson

The Chancel Choir (Jim Jefferis, director)

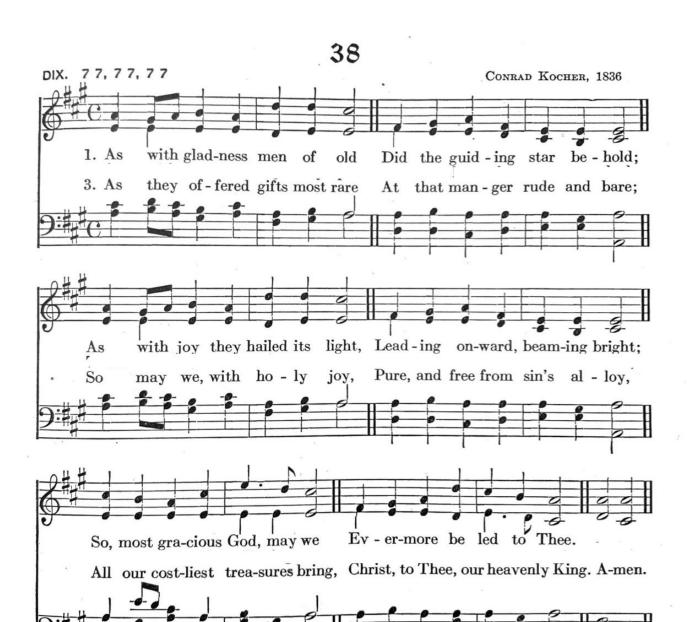
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Offertory:

As with Gladness Men of Old

CSB 38, STs 1 & 3

(See the following page for music)



William Chatterton Dix, 1860

## Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe.

You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

#### We lift them to the Lord.

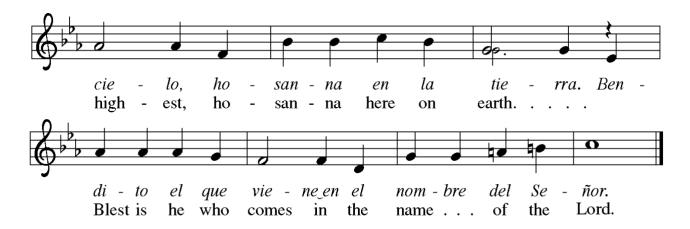
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

## It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### Sanctus:





Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

#### Words of Institution:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

#### **Invitation to Communion:**

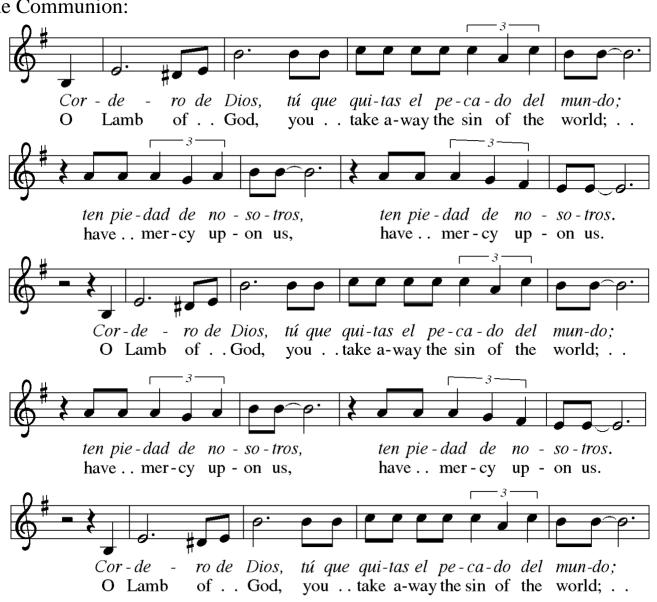
Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

#### Thanks be to God!

#### Distribution of Communion:

Please come forward at the direction of the worship leaders. All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please contact one of the Pastors.) Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please indicate your need to the pastor or communion assistant. You may lower your mask as you receive communion. If you worship through the Livestream and wish to receive communion, please reach out to one of the pastors.

#### The Communion:





Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Hymns sung during communion:

100 YEARS

Spirit of Gentleness

**ELW 396** 

(This hymn is a BLC favorite!)

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

ELW 445

## Table Blessing:

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

#### Amen

## Post-Communion Prayer:

Let us pray. We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 

#### WE LEAVE TO SERVE:

## Sending Hymn:



Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW 858

This hymn is a favorite of our guest today, Pastor Lori!

#### Benediction:

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, + bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. **Amen.** 

Dismissal:

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Prelude and Fugue in B-flat major, BWV 560

J. S. Bach

Welcome to Pastor Lori Nickoloff! Pastor Lori is familiar to many of us, as she and her family were long-time members of BLC prior to her ordination in 2018. She is currently serving as pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Penn Yan. We are grateful for her participation in our anniversary celebration and her worship leadership this morning as we remember the many ways we are connected to each other and to BLC! Read more about Pastor Lori in the bulletin insert.

**Thank you** to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! If you would like to learn more about participating in a worship role, please speak to one of the copastors or contact the church office!

## Happening today (1/9):

# 100th Anniversary Sunday!

- 8:55 am Worship with Communion with guest Pastor Lori Nickoloff (in-person and livestream) with reception following (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 am Faith Formation for pre-K through LYO
  - o pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade gathers in the Sunday School Wing
  - o 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade gathers in the Confirmation room
  - o 9th-12th grade gathers in the LYO Room
- 10:55 am Final Blessing for Everyone (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:15 am Children's Choir (Choir Room)



#### Rev. Lori Beth Nickoloff

Pastor Lori obtained her Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN and her Bachelor of Arts in Gerontology from St. John Fisher College in Rochester, NY. She was ordained at BLC on December 1, 2018 and is currently serving as the pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Penn Yan, NY, where she lives with her husband, Keith. She and her family were long-time members of BLC until her call to St. Paul. While at BLC, she was actively involved in various ministries, especially worship planning, confirmation

instruction, and leading both weekly bible studies and women's study groups.

Before becoming a Minister of Word and Sacrament, Pastor Lori worked for the New York State Ombudsman Program at Lifespan and served as the Bereavement Coordinator for the Hospice of Wayne and Seneca Counties. She also served as a Conference Deacon for the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference.

Pastor Lori and Keith recently celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. She is grateful for Keith's support and partnership in life and ministry. They have three married children and nine grandchildren.

She enjoys reading, spending time with her grandchildren, attending the theater, going out to eat with friends, putting together jigsaw puzzles, and going for walks with her Bordoodle, Boaz.



#### Sunday, 1/9

100th Anniversary Sunday

8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guest
Pastor Lori Nickoloff
(in-person
and livestream) with
reception following
10:15 am Faith
Formation for All
11:15 am Children's
Choir
12:30 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday
Dinner Ministry
(delivery only)

#### **Monday**, 1/10

#### Tuesday, 1/11

2:00 pm Support Group for Caregivers6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019 Meeting

#### Wednesday, 1/12

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

#### Thursday, 1/13

6:30 pm Lent Planning
Meeting (Join via Zoom

- ID 893 2409 3010)

6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop
Meeting
7:00 pm BLC Quilters

# Friday, 1/14 Pastor's Sabbath

2:30 pm Dulcimer Group Rehearsal

#### Saturday, 1/15

9:00 am Property committee1:30 pm Rochester Piano Teachers' Guild recital

#### **Sunday**, 1/16

8:55 am Worship with Communion (in-person and livestream) 10:15 am Faith Formation for All 11:15 am Children's Choir

**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 <u>Calendar of Events</u> 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:** Submit details at <a href="https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/">https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/</a> for each planned meeting, event and activity at BLC. This allows us to check for availability, reserve the space, and plan accordingly. Please contact the church office to confirm or with any questions following your submission.

## 100th Anniversary Reflection by Kathy Forney

Growing: A never ending project.

About 30 years ago I went to BLC searching for a new church for worship and spiritual growth. I very soon began singing in the Chancel Choir. For many years I came to rehearsal Wednesday nights, sang Sunday mornings, and left to go home. Over the years BLC became a great deal more to me.

I have been blessed to experience: Growing in the love of God; Growing in a community of other humans striving to do Good, to walk with God, to make a better world. Here is where people gather to hear the Word; where people give to others; where people strive to be kind and compassionate to their loved ones and to strangers.

Only in a place like this, a church devoted to God's way, can true spiritual growth take place.

Many times I have been heartbroken by a personal tragedy and a kind person reached out to me; I have had joyful news and found someone eager to share; I have been confused and tormented by the ugliness and violence of the world and a healing message from our Pastors helped me face the future. Many times I have wavered and wondered: is being a Christian too big a leap for me? Is it real is it true; can I be an honest person of Faith? Somehow through music, prayer and message, I realized this has to be the way; this is the only way; this is where I need to be.

Imperfect as I am, doubtful, sinning, pettily human, I try.

Growing isn't a journey on a straight line to reach that "Ah Ha" moment; that final triumph of arriving. Growing is forever; it is a struggle. BLC is a place I can work to pursue the grace and wisdom of God's Word, and hopefully GROW into it.

Dear God, You started this day in silent beauty with pink pearl and greyed purple streaks across a solemn sky. Grant me Oh God a way to show your

GRACE to others. Help me Oh Lord, to pray humbly, love others, follow your way. Amen