



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

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, 1/9
Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Lessons for Sunday, 1/16
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2: 1-11

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, please note that per NYSDOH, masks are required anytime you are in the facility. In-person worship is safest for those people who are fully vaccinated and boosted, but they are not without risk. Look at the [Gathering Again](#) page on our website, for the latest updates.

★ **Lent Planning:** Have you ever wondered how worship planning for each season takes place? Would you like to help shape how we mark the upcoming season of Lent both in worship and in all the other ways we live out our faith within the Bethlehem community? Join us in helping to shape the upcoming Lenten season (which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2). Join us via Zoom on **Thursday, January 13** at 6:30 pm when we'll gather interested folks to give shape to the upcoming Lenten season. If you have questions, please reach out to one of the pastors! You can access the meeting link on BLC's [calendar of events](#).

★ **Livestream Team is Growing:** Over the next several weeks, the team that brings you the worship broadcast each week will be adding and training new members. If you have an affinity for using complex software and have availability on Sunday mornings, we are interested in having you join the team. Contact us at livestreaming@blcfairport.org.

BLC Hospitality Team Members (formerly the role of ushers and greeters). We have an ongoing need for more volunteers. We aim to have a team of 4-6 people in place each Sunday who welcome members and guests into our worship space, help them navigate our space and ensure that they have what they need to participate in worship. There is a checklist of tasks and an assigned team leader each week. ***We would love to have you try this role.*** Contact the office or submit your info at <https://blcfairport.org/hospitality-team-at-blc/> and let us know that you are willing and able to serve in this way.

★ **To Sing Is to Pray Twice... Children's Choir of BLC** resumes weekly rehearsals on **Sunday, January 9** at 11:15 am in the choir room. Every child is invited to sing with us! Come join us each week for 45 minutes of singing, playing rhythm instruments, and fun. Visit <https://blcfairport.org/music-sign-up/> to sign up. For more information, please contact Raelynn Clare, Music Director: raelynn.clare@blcfairport.org.

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!*

100th Anniversary News

100 YEARS

Today, we are delighted to welcome Rev. Lori Nickoloff as she leads us in worship on this Anniversary Sunday. Pastor Lori and her family were long-time active members of Bethlehem. During that time, she led Bible studies and women's study groups, taught confirmation classes, and took on a variety of committee and special event leadership roles. Following her ordination at BLC in 2018, she was called to serve at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Penn Yan, NY. Welcome back, Pastor Lori, and thank you for being a part of our celebration!

On January 23, Rev. Jeff Hedin will be our guest preacher. Upon his retirement from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pittsford, in 2016, Pastor Hedin and his wife, Ruth, became members of BLC. We look forward to hearing his message and thank him for his participation in our anniversary celebration.

Following worship on January 23, John Schmeelk will present some of Bethlehem's historical highlights. Many of us have witnessed John's love of history and it will be a treat to learn from him. In addition, we will hear more about BLC's two Time Capsules, one dated 1922 and the other 2001, as their contents are revealed.

If you haven't already claimed your family's copy of both the 100th Anniversary History Album and the Timeline, this may be a good time to pick up. They are available in the narthex on the table directly below the anniversary calendar. The Album provides not only a written snapshot of our history, but pictures showing all those who have faithfully served over the years and have laid the foundation of who we are today.

For those who haven't yet had their photo taken for our 2022 Friends and Family Album, we encourage you to mark your calendar for either Friday, January 28 or Saturday, January 29 from 9 am - noon. Please call Bob Stock at 329-2550 to schedule a five-minute appointment. He will be set up at church in the downstairs meeting room facing the courtyard. If you are not available on either of those days, contact Bob and let him know that he can use your photo from the 2017 Family Album. This is your last opportunity to be included in the 2022 Album! Help us reach our goal of 100% participation.

Grow in Faith and Discipleship

★ **Faith Formation in January:** LYO and Confirmation meet in their rooms, and pre-K to 5th grade in the Sunday School wing on **January 9, 16, 23 & 30** at 10:15 am! *Watch this space for details about adult education each week.* On January 9, share in conversation with our Anniversary Guest, Pastor Lori Nickoloff, in the sanctuary after worship.

Mid Week Bible Study: We have resumed our study of the "I AM" statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John. No need to have come to previous sessions. Join us on Wednesdays at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall at BLC or on Zoom using the 'join now' button in the [Calendar of Events](#) to join. If schools are closed due to weather conditions, we will meet on Zoom – not in person. Please join us for great conversations! If you have questions, or would like more information, contact Kathy Moragne - kathymoragne@gmail.com

Live Our Faith in Daily Life

★ **A Support Group for caregivers... Tuesday, January 11:** 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 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 2 pm in person in 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.

★ **Men's Lunch... Wednesday, January 19:** 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

★ **National Youth Gathering meeting on Sunday, January 16** at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Keep an eye out in your email for the link! Please let Bethany Trippi know if you have any questions, or you are unable to attend this meeting.

Care for One Another

★ **Christmas "un-decorating"** will take place on Saturday, **January 8** at 9:30 am! We sure could use some "young" legs to climb a ladder and return the bins to the basement downstairs! Thanks for helping out! If you need information, contact Donna Berner!

Serve Our Neighbor

★ **New Year – New Ideas?** We want to hear them 😊 Please join the Missions and Social Concerns (M&SC) Committee for one meeting or many. Our first meeting in 2022 will be held virtually on Wednesday, **January 12** at 6:15 pm. Please access the link on BLC's [calendar of events](#).

★ **The M&SC Committee** explores social and justice issues and has conversations within the committee to understand our individual and world view. Our collective goal is a congregation actively engaged in our local and world communities by being allies, advocates and activists (AAA) with our mission partners. ***New members or visitors to the M&SC committee, ideas about new ministries, and different views and paradigms for engaging in mission are welcome and encouraged.*** Join us for one or all of our upcoming meetings. We offer an opportunity to meet in person at BLC in the Fellowship Hall as well as virtually through a link in the calendar of events on BLC's website. Meetings are typically held the second Wednesday of every month at 6:15 pm. Please reach out to Julie Owen at jowen@heritagechristianservices.org with interests or questions.

★ **Mission of the Month:** Each month throughout 2022, we will be highlighting a "Mission of the Month" – learn more about the missions we support through the M&SC spending plan and ways you can engage. ***Mission and service are transformational.*** We go into the world with an open heart and often encounter Christ in those we encounter.

January 2022 – Mission of the Month is Grace House (Saving Grace Ministries):

Reaching the Lost to Impact a Community: *The mission of Saving Grace Ministries, Inc. is to provide a smooth transition to community life for men and women recently released from a correctional facility by providing a highly-structured program based on Christian principles along with providing community emergency shelter housing, affordable housing, youth and family recreational sports and educational program access. Since its founding in 1999, SGM has sought to reach the lost, to serve those who no one else will serve, and to impact Western New York by providing a tangible alternative to the cycle of release and reincarceration too common in today's justice system.* Website: <http://www.sgmworld.org/rochester/>. Look for opportunities to volunteer or consider donating items from their wish list including personal supplies, clothing, linens, cleaning supplies etc.

Crucial Conversation (over Zoom)! Join us on Monday, **January 24** and Monday, **January 31** at 7 pm. In partnership with St. Luke's Episcopal Church, we are hosting a presentation and conversation on "Christian Nationalism: the Intersection of Religion and Politics". Our resource for the conversation includes a webinar on the subject that features Bishop Michael Curry (Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church) and Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). Our "crucial conversations" will begin with a presentation by The Very Rev. William H. Petersen, Emeritus Dean and Professor of Bexley Hall Seminary, resident of Fairport and member of St. Luke's Episcopal. As a theologian and historian, Rev. Petersen will provide a framework for engaging the conversation, understanding what is meant by the term "Christian nationalism" and why its emergence is problematic, and how it helps us understand recent events, including what happened at the capital on January 6, 2021. The discussion will be facilitated by Rev. Petersen, Pastor Hoffman and Pastor Amy. Pre-registration is required to participate! Please follow this link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/ZoomJan2022>

★ **The 30-hour famine** will not be held in January as planned. At this time, we hope to hold the 30-hour famine in the spring. If you have any questions, please contact Bethany Trippi.

★ **Share your story:** "Storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into the world today." Please share how you've engaged with or have been personally impacted by Grace House by emailing Julie Owen at jowen@heritagechristianservices.org We'll include it in next week's STAR.

★ **Opportunity:** Visit the ELCA Advocacy website - <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy> Consider signing up for their advocacy news and alerts to learn how you can be a force for change in the world.



Council News

LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR PHOTOS: 2021 Photo Directory: Don't miss your chance to be included. See the 100th Anniversary News announcement for details!

★ **New fan in the sanctuary:** Bob Stolze and the property team partnered with the necessary outside vendors to have a new fan installed in the sanctuary at BLC in December of 2021. With our newly installed sanctuary fan, we are now able to exchange air at the rate of 2500 cuft/min, or enough to change the air every 20 minutes. The sanctuary fan is another important feature, along with wearing masks and being vaccinated, that provides an added layer of protection to those who gather for in-person worship.

★ **Council Installation:** On Sunday, **January 16th**, we will install Council for the new year. We give thanks for the ministry of Rick Walker who completed his final term as a member and president of the council. We welcome Aderyn Gantner and Toni Thompson as new council members. They join our existing council members: Brian Edwards, Andy Gates, Margie Gaul, Mike Higgins, Glenda Lockard, Lisa Meetze, Lisa Rosenbauer & Liana Thibault, The Council will elect officers at their first meeting in January.

★ **2022 offering envelopes:** If you requested envelopes, you should have already been contacted and aware that the envelope delivery is delayed due to the provider. We will let you know as soon as they arrive! Please contact Dave Wideman (BLC Financial Secretary) or the church office with any outstanding questions.

★ **Save the Date:** Quarterly Dialogue on Sunday, **January 30 at 10:15 am in person or via Zoom.** Watch the STAR for more details and plan to attend to learn about the many ways Bethlehem continues to live out our mission of Worshipping the Living God, Growing in Faith and Discipleship, Living our Faith in Daily Life, Caring for One Another, and Serving our Neighbor.

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:

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

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Keith Walter, brother of Amy Walter-Peterson, recovering from an accident
- Susan Peterson, mother of Hans Walter-Peterson, who is undergoing testing for a tumor
- Riley, nephew of Kathy M, recovering from surgery on 12/28
- Chris, nephew-in-law of Mary Osgood, 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

[Click here to view and print the January 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 January 9 – January 16

(Last updated on 1/5/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

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 2nd Sunday
Dinner Ministry
(delivery only)

Monday, 1/10

Tuesday, 1/11

2:00 pm Support Group
for Caregivers
6:30 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 (In-
person 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
committee
1:30 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 [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: Submit details at <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/> 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.
