



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

Weekly STAR for January 16, 2022

2nd Sunday after Epiphany



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY
star



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

On January 9, we affirmed the faith of our baptism together. Living in the covenant God makes with us in baptism entrusts us with these responsibilities:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. (ELW Affirmation of Baptism, p 236)

These are big responsibilities; thank God we do not shoulder them alone. Our commitment *to live among God's faithful people* ensures that we share the load, encouraging and supporting one another to practice our faith. Gathering *to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper* strengthens us and gives us the sustenance and grace we need to do the rest.

What a way to start our observance of the season after Epiphany – the season of light! – by recalling what it looks like to be the light of Christ in the world today. And it starts with coming together – in worship, in conversation, in prayer, in life. Together, we share our thoughts and questions, doubts and wonders. Living *among* God's faithful people helps us navigate how to live *as* God's faithful people within the walls of BLC and beyond them in our daily lives.

One opportunity to come together is after worship (at 10:15 in the sanctuary) on January 16 (this Sunday!). Pastor Amy and I will be present to share conversation about whatever is on your mind. What have you always wondered about but never asked? What has changed or is new at BLC that you have questions about? *Living among God's faithful people* looks like checking in with each other.

Another opportunity is to share in the Crucial Conversation on "Christian Nationalism: the Intersection of Religion and Politics" (January 24 and 31 at 7pm over Zoom). *Striving for justice and peace* looks like reflecting together on significant events in the life of our nation, including what happened at the capital on January 6, 2021. We have the gift of learning from a local historian, scholar and theologian (The Very Rev. William H. Petersen) to inform our thinking. Like much in the life of faith, we don't expect to come away with all the answers, but we do look forward to understand how we are called *to proclaim Christ in word and deed* and *to serve all people following the example of Jesus* in today's world.

This January and beyond, *let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

God's Peace,
Pastor H.

★ 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, 1/16

1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2: 1-11

Lessons for Sunday, 1/23

1 Corinthians 12 :12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

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 it is not without risk. Look at the [Gathering Again](#) page on our website, for the latest updates.

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 holds weekly rehearsals on Sundays 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: 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

Our thanks to Rev. Lori Nickoloff for leading us in worship last Sunday as our guest pastor. Many of us remember Pastor Lori, Keith, and their children as an active part of our community of faith for many years prior to her ordination in 2018. Welcoming Pastor Lori back to the pulpit felt like she was coming home and we are so glad that she was able to participate in our celebration!

On January 23, our guest pastor will be Rev. Jeff Hedin. He and his wife, Ruth, are also familiar to our congregation, having joined BLC following his retirement from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pittsford, in 2016. We are blessed to have them both as part of our BLC family and look forward to hearing Pastor Hedin's message.

Have you checked out the BLC Buildings and Renovations photos currently on display in the narthex? When excavation for this new church called Bethlehem began on May 11, 1922, the founding members placed a time capsule in the cornerstone. Plan to join us after worship on January 23 when historian John Schmeelk reveals what the 1922, as well as the 2001, time capsules contain.

The deadline for having your photo taken for our 2022 Friends and Family Album is coming up at the end of January. Available later this year, this album will be a wonderful anniversary souvenir, as in addition to photos of our BLC friends and family, it will feature photos of events held throughout our 2021-2022 celebration. If you have not had your picture taken, please call Bob Stock at 329-2550 to schedule an appointment at church on either Friday, January 28 or Saturday, January 29 from 9 am-noon. 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. We would like our album to be as complete as possible.

Lastly, the anniversary throws are in! If you have ordered one and have not yet been contacted about pick-up, please contact Sherry Cook at 598-3308 or scook826@rochester.rr.com.



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 16, 23 & 30** at 10:15 am! On **January 16**, share in a time of Q&A and Conversation with our co-Pastors. What have you always wondered about but never asked? What practice has changed that you are curious about? Gather in the Sanctuary or Join via Zoom [using this link](#) or through the [Calendar of Events](#) and share in this open time for curious conversation!

Mid Week Bible Study: We are currently studying 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

★ **BLC Quilters, AN INVITATION:** Feeling stuck at home? Cabin fever? Need some friendly conversation? Come hang out with the quilters! There's something for everyone to do. (We love encouraging words!) First and third Thursdays at 7 pm. **January 20, February 3, February 17, March 3, March 17...** Wear your mask.

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



Serve Our Neighbor

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 on BLC's [calendar of events](#). 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: *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.

- 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.
- BLC financial support: BLC contributes \$4500 to Grace House from the Mission and Social Concerns budget.
- M&SC has three foci of Crisis aid, Sustainability, and Accompaniment
 - Crisis Intervention – While our funds support crisis needs at Grace House, BLC members could also provide items on the Grace House wish list on a regular basis.

- Sustainability - Our annual financial contribution helps provide a stable, supportive place for residents to live and learn while reintegrating into society. This benefits us all.
- Accompaniment – BLC accompanies some Grace House families by providing Christmas gifts through the BLC Angel Tree.
- A Living Lutheran short article on reshaping our perspectives of previously incarcerated people [When students and inmates are classmates - Living Lutheran](#)
- Other BLC supported ministries like this: *Women's Coffee Connection* hires women who are recovering from addiction and have previously served time. Sustainable change is encouraged through job skills training, employment, and counseling. Website: [Coffee Connection \(ourcoffeeconnection.org\)](https://www.ourcoffeeconnection.org)

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! **Sign-up now at:** <https://bit.ly/ZoomJan2022>

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

Council Installation: On Sunday, **January 16** (this week!), we will install our 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.

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.

2022 offering envelopes: The 2022 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.

Quarterly Dialogue: 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.

Community News

★ **The South Wedge Mission is hosting a two-part workshop** on "Parenting Safe Children" over Zoom on **January 22 and January 29** from 10 am-12:30 pm both days. Anyone who spends time with littles and is committed to shaping environments and relationships that provide for their physical and emotional safety is welcome to attend - parents, grandparents, volunteers who work with children at church or other places, etc. Pastor Matthew Nickoloff gives this workshop his highest recommendation: "Pastor Matthew's family attended a workshop with Feather in Denver over a decade ago, and have found it to be one of the single most influential experiences in parenting their own children." Full details and registration information can be found here: <https://www.southwedgmission.org/post/parenting-safe-children-a-community-zoom-workshop>

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:

- Chick Forney, who is recovering after a recent hospitalization
- Elenore Bulau as she was hospitalized following a fall and is transitioning to hospice care
- 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

For those who serve or work away from home, especially:

- The Antonoff family (TJ, Suzanne, Natalie, Bethany and Trace), who are stationed in Kazakhstan with the US military, where there is significant political unrest right now. Suzanne grew up at BLC and is the daughter of Howard and Jan Sharp.

[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!)



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org



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

Calendar for January 16 – January 23

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

Sunday, 1/16

8:55 am Worship with
Communion (in-person
and livestream)
10:15 am Faith
Formation for All
(Sanctuary
Conversations available
In-person or
[Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 859 4251 6915)
11:15 am Children's
Choir

Monday, 1/17

**Office Closed in
observance of Martin
Luther King Day**
7:00 pm IMF/Council
Workshop ([Join](#) via
Zoom –
ID 893 3933 1136)

Tuesday, 1/18

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting

Wednesday, 1/19

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, 1/20

6:30 pm Council
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 8187910 2136)
7:00 pm BLC Quilters

Friday, 1/21

Pastor's Sabbath
2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal

Saturday, 1/22

Sunday, 1/23

100th Anniversary Sunday

8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guest
Pastor Jeff Hedin
(in-person
and livestream)
10:15 am Opening of the
Time Capsule
(Presentation led by
John Schmeelk)
10:15 am Faith
Formation for All
(Sanctuary
Conversations available
In-person or
[Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 859 4251 6915)
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.
