

 WORSHIP

 GROW

 LIVE

 CARE

 SERVE

Weekly STAR for January 30, 2022

4th Sunday after Epiphany



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY

star

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

The order of service for Holy Baptism begins with reminding us of all that God does for us in the gift of baptism: *God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.*

Those are big, not just life-changing but life-giving claims. New birth. Living hope. Deliverance from sin and death. And none of it happens in a vacuum. We are united with *all* the baptized...

When I took CPR training to be a lifeguard back in the day, I remember the first thing we were taught to do in an emergency: identify someone to call 911. Don't just yell "someone call 911!" Instead, say, "you, in the blue shirt, call 911." When something is everyone's responsibility, it can become no one's responsibility. Everyone thinks someone else has it covered.

Living into the promise of baptism cannot be done apart from the gathered community. We need others to share God's Word with us, to teach us the Lord's Prayer and the Creed and the Ten Commandments. We need to feast on the Lord's Supper, always given to us and for us and not taken as a private meal with God. We need others to pray with us and for us. We need people to speak hope to us when we feel discouraged, to extend grace and forgiveness when we mess up, so that we learn to do that for ourselves and for others, too.

These are the responsibilities of the whole people of God. That's why we ask the congregation at the time of baptism: People of God, do you promise to support (*name*) and pray for *them* in *their* new life in Christ? And on behalf of the whole church, we enthusiastically respond: We do!

But it helps to know that someone – or a few someones – have taken specific responsibility for this particular child of God, and that's the role of sponsors or godparents. We ask them: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture (*name*) in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *them* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

These are bold commitments, and sometimes we fall short on following through. To be honest, no one can quite recall who sponsored me at baptism. But by the grace of God, I can name countless people throughout my life – including my parents – who have filled that role for me.

Who has assumed that role in your life, either as your formal baptismal sponsor or godparent, or a person who has supported you and prayed for you in your life of faith? For whom have you been a godparent or baptismal sponsor?

This week, we will remember by name the people who support and pray for us, who nurture us in the Christian faith, who help us to live out our baptismal responsibilities. We give thanks for their faithfulness and for all the ways that God provides the people we need to sustain us in the life of faith.

~ Pastor Hoffman

★ 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, 1/30
Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Luke 4: 21-30

Lessons for Sunday, 2/6
Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11

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

Godparenting Sunday THIS WEEK (January 30)! What's that, you ask? It's an opportunity to remember that we do not live into our baptismal promises by ourselves, and not even only with the grace of God. In fact, that is one of our baptismal promises -- "to live among God's faithful people"! We need the care and support of a community of faith, which often (not always) includes having a "baptismal sponsor" or "Godparent". On January 30, we'll invite you to remember your baptismal sponsor or Godparent as well as any people to whom you've been a sponsor or Godparent. You might even consider inviting them to share in worship - in person or virtually - with BLC on Sunday!

Scout Sunday... on February 6, we will recognize Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA and their leaders. Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms to worship and to help distribute bulletins prior to worship. For more than 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America has introduced leadership skills and character development through community service and an outdoor program that is second to none. In addition to the Explorer and Venture groups which have provided programs for girls for decades, girls are now joining Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA by the thousands. BLC has sponsored a girl troop for three years and welcomes girls of 11 - 17 years on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm. For more information is available at fairport2019.mytroop.us. A Scout is Reverent.

We Need YOU... to serve on the Worship Team! As Lutheran Christians, we believe that worship is not a passive experience, watching and listening to the Pastor. Worship is the work of the people – that's what liturgy means! We all have a job to do in 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. It also takes many people to support the work of worship, both serving publicly and behind-the-scenes. That's why we need you! We shared an insert in last week's bulletin that invites you to consider learning more about and trying out the various roles in Worship on Sunday mornings. You can complete a digital version of that form at <https://blcfairport.org/yes-i-will-serve-on-the-worship-team/>.

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

Thanks to Pastor Jeff Hedin who was our guest last Sunday. In acknowledging our anniversary celebration, he shared, "It is with thanksgiving to God that we celebrate what God has done in this congregation... and we look forward to God's guidance and blessing in the years that lie ahead." Thank you, Pastor Hedin, for bringing the Word to us! Also, we are grateful to John Schmeelk for his most interesting presentation on the contents of our 1921 and 2001 time capsules as he described the items in the context of history at the time. John wrote in his 100th Anniversary reflection that "One hundred years ago the people of BLC Fairport...left a legacy through efforts that included success and failure. The example set for us by those who followed was one of endurance and true growth."

Next Sunday, February 6, we will welcome Pastor Matthew Nickoloff to lead us in worship. Pastor Matthew is a son of BLC, as his family are former members; many of us remember him growing up. He attended Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University, Columbia, SC and was ordained at Bethlehem in 2012. He now serves as Pastor of the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.

PLEASE NOTE: The Pot Luck Dinner on February 12 has been postponed until a later, as yet undecided, date. However, the Highlight Reel, a 20-minute video scheduled for the dinner will be shown after worship on Sunday, February 20. This video

captures highlights of archived video interviews with 33 members, as well as current and former pastors, beginning in 2015. Some of those interviewed, like Jo Bieler, Tom and Gert Edwards, and Carol Alvut, are no longer with us. Do plan on seeing this wonderful Highlight Reel and hearing of their time at BLC in their own words.

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 30** at 10:15 am!

On **January 30**, at 10:15 am, you are invited to participate in the Quarterly Dialogue. Gather in the Sanctuary or join via Zoom [using this link](#) or through the [Calendar of Events](#).

Lenten Devotional for 2022: During the season of Lent, we will be exploring **Sabbath** and would love to include your reflection as part of a Lenten Devotional for the Bethlehem community. Observing sabbath is one of the ways that we show the world that we belong to God. But honoring the holiness of sabbath is challenging in a world that rewards accomplishment and action, rather than rest. Over the last two years, many of our patterns of daily life have been forced to change, and along with them our ideas of work and rest.

- What is your understanding of the concept of the Sabbath?
- What does it mean to keep the sabbath “holy”?
- How do you and your family honor or observe the Sabbath?
- Is the Sabbath a day or a state of mind?
- How has your viewpoint of observing the Sabbath changed since the pandemic?

You are welcome to use any of these questions to guide your reflection or compose whatever inspiration the Holy Spirit brings to you. Visit <https://blcfairport.org/preparing-for-lent/> to submit your devotional digitally. [Click here for a printable version of the full guidelines](#).

Midweek Bible Study: We return to the Old Testament for the next few months. The Books of First and Second Samuel will be our focus. Join us on Wednesdays at 9:30 am on Zoom using the 'join now' button in the [Calendar of Events](#) to join. We hope to see you! If you have questions, or would like more information, contact Kathy Moragne at kathymoragne@gmail.com.

Live Our Faith in Daily Life

BLC LYO's Sweetheart Sale: It's that time of year again! Show your valentines this year how much you care with a delicious treat from BLC LYO's Sweetheart Sale. [Order through the BLC website by February 6th!](#) Pick up your orders after church Sunday, February 13th in the fellowship hall. Delivery available upon request. A special thanks to Bev Edwards for her generosity and support. Please email Bethany Trippi with any questions at bethany.trippi@blcfairport.org.

★ **Men's Breakfast...Wednesday, February 2:** Gather with the men of BLC to share good food and informal Christian fellowship. The group will meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 8 am at The Landmark Restaurant in East Rochester. For further information, contact [Jim Berner](#).

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. **February 3, February 17, March 3, March 17...** Wear your mask.

★ **Ruth Circle** will meet at BLC on Monday, **February 14** at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing Chapter 9, (Think About What You Think About) in 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 or e-mail ruthkurtz22@gmail.com. Masking is required in the church building.

Care for One Another

Barnabas Ministry continues to extend the ministry of support and encouragement to those who are homebound, recovering from surgery or otherwise in need of care and connection. People share in this ministry through making phone calls, cards, delivering a meal, driving someone to church or a doctor's appointment, sharing communion and more. If you would like to be part of caring for others in any of these ways, contact Pastor Hoffman (pastor.hoffman@blefairport.org)

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.

From our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Pastor Ngara's greetings: *Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ. You have our joy and prayers as you celebrate 100 years. It is quite some feat because 100 years is not a short time by any standards. It is a blessing and a seal of approval from God. Hip hip hurray! Thank you for including Shurugwi Parish in this celebration. Your love is immeasurable. Convey our most sincere thanks for the anticipated anniversary material and our best wishes for reaching this milestone. As this is my fifth and final year with Shurugwi, I will forever remain grateful to God that I have known you, though without physical encounter. God be with you. Pastor C. Ngara*

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 \(ourcoffeeconnection.org\)](http://ourcoffeeconnection.org)

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

At the January 21, 2022 Council meeting, new officers were elected.

Lisa Meetze – President
Margie Gaul – Vice President
Liana Thibault – Secretary
Glenda Lockard – Treasurer

Other council members include: Brian Edwards, Aderyn Gantner, Andy Gates, Mike Higgins, Lisa Rosenbauer, and Toni Thompson. The Council will hold a **Quarterly Dialogue Sunday, January 30 at 10:15 am in person or via Zoom**. Gather in the Sanctuary or join via Zoom [using this link](#) or through the [Calendar of Events](#).

2022 offering envelopes: The 2022 envelopes have arrived! They are available in the Narthex. If you requested them and need to make other arrangements to receive them, please contact Dave Wideman (BLC Financial Secretary) or the church office.

Community News

Learning and Growing Opportunity with the Upstate NY Synod: "Faith Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action"...held Mondays, 7-8:30 pm, via Zoom (**Feb 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28**) and facilitated by Pastor Lori Kochanski. In 2019 *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action* was voted on by the churchwide assembly and is our newest social statement. Using the new study guide we will explore the ways we are called to action regarding faith, sexism and justice. **SIGN UP HERE:** <https://forms.gle/gY6NoQ7vRnZxCfSGA>

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/>

We Ask Your Prayers:

We pray for those whose thanks or needs are known to us.

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- The birth of Sloane Farrell, daughter of Connor Joyce and Erin Farrell, and little sister to Marlee. Sloane was born on 1/14/2022 and is the granddaughter of Sandy and Mike Joyce.

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

- Kim Zeigler (cousin of Chris Meetze) who died on 1/21
- Aulikki (aunt of Marja Roney) who died on 1/18
- Elenore Bulau who died on 1/14

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Those who lost their homes in the fire at the Pines of Perinton this week
- Chris (nephew-in-law of Mary Osgood) who continues to be hospitalized with Covid in serious condition
- Mary Osgood as she recovers from knee replacement surgery on 1/24
- Doug Zeigler (cousin of Chris Meetze) who is very ill with Covid
- Donna Berner as she recovers from knee replacement surgery on 1/25
- Sherry Cook, who broke her shoulder in a fall and is at home recuperating
- 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!

Calendar for January 30 – February 6

(Last updated on 1/26/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 1/30

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

Monday, 1/31

BLC Office Closed
7:00 pm Crucial
Conversation: Christian
Nationalism Part 2 –
Pre-registration
required

Tuesday, 2/1

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting

Wednesday, 2/2

8:00 am Men's Breakfast
at The Landmark
Restaurant
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
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, 2/3

6:30 pm Officers
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 836 2369 6315)
7:00 pm BLC Quilters

Friday, 2/4

Pastor's Sabbath
2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal

Saturday, 2/5

Sunday, 2/6

100th Anniversary Sunday

Scout Sunday

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

Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office on Monday, January 31

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.
