



WORSHIP



GROW



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SERVE

Weekly STAR for February 6, 2022

5th Sunday after Epiphany



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY

star



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

100th Anniversary Reflection on Growing by Ruth Sleeman

Revenues are up 5%. I need to repot my plant – it grew so much! Look at Mary, she got so big since the last time I saw her. I think we all like to measure growth. It makes us feel good. We appreciate progress. We feel like we accomplished something. As an accountant I learned in business that you needed to measure the most important things to the company – it was really the only way to determine success. But as a mom, wife, friend, sister, advocate I'm not sure I know how to measure some of the most important things in life – love, tolerance, forgiveness, faith.

So how would we measure growth in faith? The number of times we go to church, the size of our offering, the number of bible verses we know, the times we attend bible study? I think these are all wonderful things to do and I believe they all are a part of our faith, but do they really capture the most important parts of our spiritual growth?

Martin Luther wrote, "Faith is God's work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. This faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that believers would stake their lives on it a thousand times."

This quote is so vibrant and dynamic that for me it becomes a challenge to remember that instead of cringing at those new changes, being too scared to join a new group, or deciding I'm just too busy to help a friend or neighbor, I might be missing one of the best ways to be actively grow my faith and have the "daring confidence in God's grace." I'm not sure how to measure that, but I might try.

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, 2/6

Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11

Lessons for Sunday, 2/13

Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Luke 6:17-26

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.

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.

★ **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 welcome Rev. Matthew Nickoloff to the pulpit as our guest pastor. Son of long-time members, Pastor Lori and Keith Nickoloff, many of us remember him as he grew up in our congregation. Pastor Matthew 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.

During today's worship, you will hear three special anniversary music selections created by our own members in honor of our celebration. We thank Jim Berner for writing the lyrics and Bob Stock for composing the music for the children's song. Based on our scripture verse from Ephesians, Kathy Forney wrote the lyrics and Jim Jefferis composed the music for the anthem sung by the Chancel Choir.

Lastly, Jim Jefferis wrote both the lyrics and music for our special hymn sung by the congregation. Do thank each of these talented folks for their part in creating this exceptional music. We are truly blessed!

No doubt you have seen our volunteer photographers snapping photos of our guests and events these past few months. Ever wonder what happens to all those photos? Check out the 100th Anniversary website by going to blcfairport.org and clicking on the 100th Anniversary link in the top right corner of the BLC home page. Select the Event Media button and let the photos refresh your memories of our past few months of celebration. You can also watch Bishop of the ELCA Upstate NY Synod, Rev. Lee M. Miller II, extend a video greeting to our congregation in honor of this milestone anniversary.

PLEASE NOTE: Although the February 12 Pot Luck Dinner has been postponed until spring, the Highlight Reel, a 20-minute video scheduled for the dinner, will be shown after worship on Sunday, February 20. Watch the highlights of 33 videotaped interviews of fellow members, as well as current and former pastors, describe the best of Bethlehem in their own words. Kathy Forney will also read a poem by Ann Rasbeck following the video

Grow in Faith and Discipleship

★ **Faith Formation in February:** LYO and Confirmation meet in their rooms, and pre-K to 5th grade in the Sunday School wing on **February 6, 13, 20 & 27** at 10:15 am! Check back weekly for Adult Education and Sanctuary Conversation details.

★ On **February 6**, at 10:15 am, you are invited to participate in **Q&A conversation with our anniversary guest, Rev. Matthew Nickoloff**. Gather in the Sanctuary or join via Zoom [using this link](#) or through the [Calendar of Events](#).

★ **Welcome to the Table!** As we prepare to welcome a new group of young people to the communion table on Sunday, February 20, we invite all to join these young people and their parents in the Sanctuary or on Zoom on Sunday, **February 13** at 10:15 am to explore what it means to be fed at Christ's table. We'll talk about what we believe happens in Holy Communion and talk about how we receive communion at Bethlehem. Please share in this important learning time! If you have a child who is ready to receive communion, please contact one of the Pastors.

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.](#)

★ **Lenten Book Study on Sabbath...** Sundays at 10:15 am (**March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 10**). Gather in-person or over Zoom for a book/Bible study facilitated by Pastor Dave Gerhardt. Together, we will read portions of Sabbath: *Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives*, by Wayne Muller. NOTE: No session on April 3 because we will welcome Anniversary Guests with a reception at that time. **Please sign up on the church website by March 1** (<https://blcfairport.org/lenten-book-study-on-sabbath/>) and indicate whether you will obtain a copy of the book on your own (readily available at most major booksellers) or would like BLC to order a copy for you.

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

Last chance to order! 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.

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.

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



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@blcfairport.org)

★ **Help spread the love by sending Valentine Greetings...** Each year, we like to remember our homebound members and friends with Valentines. This is a simple way to extend the love of God to others in the Bethlehem community. We will have addresses available on Sunday, 2/6 if you'd like to take some and send out greetings. As always, you are also encouraged to send your own greetings to the BLC community members that you are thinking of and missing! *If you will not be in worship would still like addresses to send out some Valentines, please contact the church office!*



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.

★ **2nd Sunday Dinner Ministry:** Thank you to Paulette Costanza for her years of dedicated service (since May of 2016!) as the 2nd Sunday Dinner Ministry Coordinator at BLC. Her compassion, organization and thoughtful coordination in scheduling all the details associated with this ministry have been noticed and appreciated. If you see Paulette, please join us in thanking her for her faithful service! In January of 2022, David Gerhardt came on board to work alongside Toni Thompson, and all of the dedicated volunteers who contribute each month to this important ministry.

More about Second Sunday Dinner Ministry: BLC delivers (we have not returned to onsite meals) around 50 hot meals on the second Sunday to those in need in our community. The next BLC date is Sunday, 2/13. Other local churches provide meals on the other Sundays. For more information about this ministry and how to get involved, please contact David Gerhardt (dgerha4616@aol.com) who coordinates the kitchen efforts or Toni Thompson (thompsonjandt@yahoo.com) who schedules the drivers & deliveries.

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.

★ **Be a Hunger Activist!** Sign up now at [M&SC: BLC Hunger Activists \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com) to claim your week! Be sure to scroll to the bottom of the page to submit. Hunger Activists provide and deliver 20 of one item to the Pines of Perinton Mini Food Cupboard sometime during the week. Due to active BLC involvement last year, there are three slots for each week. The Mini Food Cupboard is on the road that circles around the apartments and is located by the maintenance shed. Enter from either Route 250 or Whitney Rd. Questions? Contact Beth Walker rbowsend@rochester.rr.com.

★ **Ask Me Anything – Teen Dating Violence Awareness:** February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. 1 in 3 teens in the U.S. will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by someone they are in a relationship with before they become adults. Join Lisa Nolan, Willow's Director of Prevention Education, in our first series of *Ask Me Anything* for parents and teens. Lisa will take real-time questions about teen dating violence, healthy and unhealthy relationships, and how to start the conversation with your parent or teen. *Ask Me Anything* is free and available via Facebook Live. ASL Interpreters are available. **Questions?** Email Info@WillowCenterNY.org **Pro Tip:** you do not need a Facebook account to participate. Find us @WillowCenterNY or by clicking on the date below.

[February 8 at 7 p.m.](#)
Teen Edition

[February 15 at noon](#)
Parent Edition



Council News

★ **Quarterly Dialogue Recap:** Last Sunday the BLC Council and Pastors held the first Quarterly Dialogue of 2022. The 2022 Council and Executive Committee were introduced. Pastor Hoffman reviewed the congregational goals that church leaders developed last year.

Goal 1: The BLC community is engaged in the ministry of the congregation.

Goal 2: The BLC community builds intergenerational relationships and connection.

We discussed how nationwide change in religious trends and landscape are changing more rapidly than ever before. With that in mind, leadership will continue to focus on these goals throughout the year.

The finances during the first quarter of our fiscal year are tracking very close to the approved budget. The “Sharing our Blessings Team” was formed at last year’s Annual Meeting to gift \$30,000 from BLC’s operating account to local ministries. They’ve established criteria for how they plan to disburse the funds and will soon be soliciting input for potential recipients. We are blessed to be members of the BLC congregation!

★ **Sharing Our Blessings:** You may remember at the BLC annual meeting in October 2021 a resolution was approved which authorized \$30,000 in special mission funding in fiscal year 2022. This article is part of an effort to keep the Congregation informed about work being done in response to the resolution and what will be asked of you.

After the annual meeting, Council created an ad-hoc committee, which became the “Sharing Our Blessings” Committee, consisting of Pr. Amy, Alli O’Malley, Lisa Rosenbauer, Julie Owen, Cathy Gottermeier and Alan Sleeman. Council has asked the committee to develop criteria for how this money can best be used to further the mission of the church. So far, the Committee has developed the criteria, below is a condensed version.

1. Share with Synod and Churchwide
2. Make all spending within the greater Rochester metropolitan area.
3. Gather input from the Congregation.
4. Recipients will promote Congregational engagement, and
5. Recipients will make a report to the Congregation demonstrating the impact.

We are now at the point of gathering your input. To do so we are asking you to complete a short survey. The survey can be found at <https://forms.gle/v6b4FV1AEopPhQabA>. If you would rather give your input in person members of the committee will be at a table in the Narthex on Sunday 2/6 and 2/13 and happy to talk to you. After we gather Congregational input the committee will make a recommendation to Council, which we will share with everyone. Thanks for your help.

Community News

★ **Pines of Perinton – Community Update:** In the recent fire at the Pines of Perinton, multiple families lost everything. The Perinton community continues to respond with love and care for these neighbors. Donations are accepted through the Pines of Perinton Funds, Town Hall 1350 Turk Hill Road, Fairport, NY. 14550 or at the Town Hall during business hours M-F, 9 am – 5 pm. Gift cards in the amount of \$50-\$100 to Wegmans, Walmart, Aldis, Target, or prepaid Visa are also useful as household try to replace basic necessities and supplement meals. Any donations received by Bethlehem that are ear-marked **Pines Fire Recovery** will be forwarded.

★ **Join leaders of the Upstate New York Synod** for 9@9 on Facebook LIVE Monday thru Thursday at 9 am or find the recordings on the synod Facebook account (<https://www.facebook.com/upstatensynod>)

Monday - Julie Grindle, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy and Mobility

Tuesday - Pastor Imani Olear, Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop

Wednesday - Bishop Lee Miller II

Thursday - Pastor Lori Kochanski, Assistant to the Bishop

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 (February 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>

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:

- Kim Zeigler (cousin of Chris Meetze) who died on 1/21

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Those impacted by the fire in the Pines of Perinton
- 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 & pneumonia
- Those involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones
- Those infected with or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers

★ **We Pray for Each Other** – Each Sunday in worship we give thanks and offer prayers for those in our community whose celebrations or needs are known to us. Requests for prayers are shared in our monthly prayer listing as well, with updates available the first Sunday of each month. If you have a prayer request or an update of an existing prayer need for yourself, a family member, or friend, you can easily submit them digitally via the “pew card” at <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/>. Alternately they can be shared by contacting the church office or a pastor.

[Click here to view and print the February 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

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

Calendar for February 6 – February 13

(Last updated on 2/2/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

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

Monday, 2/7

7:00 pm 100th
Anniversary Planning
Meeting ([Join](#) via Zoom
– ID 830 8523 3279)

Tuesday, 2/8

2:00 pm Support Group
for Caregivers
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting

Wednesday, 2/9

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, 2/10

6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop
Meeting

Friday, 2/11

Pastor's Sabbath
2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal

Saturday, 2/12

9:15 am Property
Committee

Sunday, 2/13

8:55 am Worship with
Communion
(in-person
and livestream)
10:15 am Welcome to the
Table! Sanctuary
Conversation
(In-person or
[Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 859 4251 6915)
10:15 am Faith
Formation for All
11 am – 1:15 pm
Sweetheart Sale
pickup (pre-ordered)
11:15 am Children's
Choir
12:30 pm 2nd Sunday
Dinner Ministry
(delivery only)

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.
