



I have a distinct memory of receiving my first communion in elementary school. I don't remember the communion meal itself, what I remember is the night before. For some reason I had missed the final preparation class and so I was working my way through a worksheet I had been given to help me prepare. I recall that my dad came to sit with me that Saturday evening and talk through the worksheet with me. I suspect he even shared with me what communion meant to him! I don't have any memory of what that worksheet asked or what the communion experience itself was like. What I remember was the deepening of relationship with my dad through a shared conversation about faith.

At Bethlehem, ***Welcome to the Table***, is what we call preparation for communion. For some young people it happens after they've had their first communion and for others it comes before. In our preparation we try to share the fullness of God's love made visible in Jesus, who is fully present to us in the communion meal. In age-appropriate ways, we invite people into exploring Luther's teaching on the Sacrament of the Altar in the Small Catechism (Luther's name for Holy Communion, which is printed in the back of the Red Hymnal). We also invite children and their families into some of the communion preparations – this year they'll be making the bread for February 20 and helping to set the altar table.

Most of all though, we hope that Bethlehem's preparation for first communion strengthens and deepens relationships with Jesus and with parents or other important adults who share a child's faith. It's in these relationships with Jesus and with each other what we often come to understand the forgiveness and mercy that are offered to us in the Lord's Supper.

I invite you to join those preparing to be Welcomed to the Table at 10:15 am on February 13 in the Sanctuary or on Zoom. This is a chance for all of us to be reminded of what it means to receive Christ in bread and wine and to be nurtured through this meal for life in the world today!

Join us in worship also on February 20 when five young people are officially Welcomed to the Table where there's always a place for you as well!

*Pastor Amy*

★ *Don't forget to look for this **star icon** (★) to easily identify the newest information each week*

★ **Two Week STAR:** Please note, this publication is intentionally a 2-week STAR. The content you see on 2/13 and 2/20 will be inclusive of details through February 27 and will be the same information. Look for your Quarterly Mailer the week of February 20.

## 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, 2/13

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

### Lessons for Sunday, 2/20

Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Luke 6:27-38

### Lessons for Sunday, 2/27

2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2; Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

**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.

★ **Calling percussionists - new and all levels of players! Come and play along with the Chancel Bells on February 27!** BLC has a new percussion ensemble that assists in accompanying music for worship from time to time. If you got rhythm and would like a unique and fun way of volunteering for BLC, please contact Music Director, Raelynn Clare: [raelynn.clare@blcfairport.org](mailto:raelynn.clare@blcfairport.org). Our rehearsal time is flexible and project based.

**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!*

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary News

# 100 YEARS

Our thanks to Rev. Matthew Nickoloff for leading us in worship at our February 6 anniversary service. Son of long-time members, Pastor Lori and Keith Nickoloff, and ordained at Bethlehem in 2012, he now serves as pastor of the South Wedge Mission in Rochester. Following worship, he shared more about his ministry in words and photos, and thanked all of us for our generosity in supporting SWM both financially and through helping with hands-on projects.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Keeping within the COVID guidelines, our February 12 Pot Luck Dinner has been postponed until spring. However, after worship on Sunday, February 20, you will have the opportunity to watch a 20-minute video, called the Highlight Reel. Compiled from interviews of 33 fellow members, as well as current and former pastors, it is a wonderful tribute to why we all love Bethlehem. Following the video, Kathy Forney will read a poem outlining our history written by Ann Rasbeck. Do mark this date on your calendars and join us in the sanctuary. This event will be live streamed.

Following worship on Sunday, February 27, John Schmeelk, our BLC historian, will share a little more about the work of those faithful servants who laid the foundation for Bethlehem one hundred years ago. In 1921 our newly-formed congregation first met above Wagor Drug Store on North Main Street roughly opposite the current Village Hall. Later that year, on October 26, the congregation purchased property at our current location. Approval was granted to build a permanent church building on February 12, 1922 – one hundred years ago this month. Impressively, within thirteen months, the church was completed and on March 11, 1923 a dedication service for the building and its furnishings was held. John's presentation will also be live streamed.

Sadly, our scheduled March 20 guest pastor, Rev. Paul Adler (son of Rev. Dallas Adler, 1958-1966, and a former BLC member) is unable to join us in leading worship due to lingering effects from COVID. He will be sending a taped message which will be live streamed.

## Grow in Faith and Discipleship

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

★ **Sanctuary Conversation** on 2/13 will be a discussion about Welcome to the Table. Gather in the Sanctuary at 10:15 am 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 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/lenen-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](mailto:kathymoragne@gmail.com).

## Live Our Faith in Daily Life

**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](mailto: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

★ **A Support Group for caregivers...next meeting is Tuesday, February 15:** If you are caregiving for a loved one (elderly parent, spouse, relative or anyone dear to you), feel free to join us! **We will now meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** of the month at 2 pm in person in the Fellowship Hall. The participants share with and learn from each other; this is not a lecture or class! If you have ANY questions, or you would like to join but are unable to meet in person, please contact Pastor Hoffman.

★ **Thank you!** Dear Bethlehem family, Many, many thanks for the wonderful, cards, phone calls, meals and, most importantly, prayers during my surgery and ongoing recovery! Jim and I are truly blessed to be a part of this loving, caring community of faith!  
– Donna Berner



## 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](mailto:jowen@heritagechristianservices.org) with interests or questions.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Dinner Ministry:** Thank you to Paulette Costanza for her years of dedicated service (since May of 2016!) as the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:dgerha4616@aol.com)) who coordinates the kitchen efforts or Toni Thompson ([thompsonjandt@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 \(signupgenius.com\)](#) 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](mailto:rbowsend@rochester.rr.com).



## Council News

★ **Re-Opening Update** - As New York State's indoor mask mandate expires, Bethlehem will return to the guidance in place prior to its implementation.

- We wear masks on Sunday mornings, during faith-formation activities, and whenever moving through the building.
- Worship leaders who are speaking may remove their mask when in a leadership role (ex. preaching, reading, etc)
- Small groups meeting at church may determine whether or not masks will be worn during their meeting times.
- We continue to avoid sharing food fellowship indoors.

As always, we encourage people to stay at home if they are sick or are experiencing any Covid-related symptoms. The Re-Opening team will be meeting in the next two weeks to determine if other changes can be made at this time.

**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/t3N6aKb5zEdi8CjB9>. 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. 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/upstatenysynod>)

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 (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](http://www.blcfairport.org) and to sign up for reminders and special announcements (including the STAR!)



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 <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 Nicole Eloise Hedin on 2/7/22. Nicole is the daughter of Andrew and Meredith, little sister of Ryan and granddaughter of Jeff & Ruth Hedin.

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

- Julia Deichmann (friend of Chris Meetze) who died on 2/8/22

*We pray for those in need of healing, especially:*

- Lee Rosenbauer who is seeking placement in a hospice facility
- 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
- Those involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones

[Click here to view and print the February long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!

## Calendar for February 13 – February 20

(Last updated on 2/16/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
Dinner Ministry  
(delivery only)

### Monday, 2/14

1:00 pm Ruth Circle

### Tuesday, 2/15

2:00 pm Support Group for  
Caregivers (now on 1<sup>st</sup> &  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays!)  
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019  
Meeting

### Wednesday, 2/16

9:30 am Bible Study –  
([Join](#) via Zoom –  
ID 943 3691 2942)  
1:00 pm Men's Lunch at  
Penfield Wegmans  
4:15 pm Children's Choir  
6:00 pm Chancel Bells  
6:15 pm Folk Group  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, 2/17

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

### Friday, 2/18

*Pastor's Sabbath*  
2:30 pm Dulcimer  
Group Rehearsal

### Saturday, 2/19

### Sunday, 2/20

*Welcome to the Table*  
8:55 am Worship with  
Communion  
(in-person  
and livestream)  
10:15 am 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Highlight Reel (in-person  
and livestream)  
10:15 am Faith  
Formation for All  
11:15 am Children's Choir

Pastor Hoffman is away February 20 – 27.

**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.

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**Sunday, 2/20**

***Welcome to the Table***

8:55 am Worship with  
Communion

(in-person  
and livestream)

10:15 am 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Highlight Reel (in-person  
and livestream)

10:15 am Faith  
Formation for All

11:15 am Children's  
Choir

**Monday, 2/21**

**Tuesday, 2/22**

**Wednesday, 2/23**

9:30 am Bible Study –  
([Join](#) via Zoom –  
ID 943 3691 2942)

6:00 pm Chancel Bells  
*No Folk Group*  
*No Chancel Choir*

**Thursday, 2/24**

**Friday, 2/25**

***Pastor's Sabbath***

2:30 pm Dulcimer  
Group Rehearsal

**Saturday, 2/26**

**Sunday, 2/27**

8:55 am Worship with  
Communion  
(in-person  
and livestream)

10:15 am 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Historical Presentation  
with John Schmeelk (in-  
person and livestream)

10:15 am Faith

Formation for All  
11:15 am Children's  
Choir

Pastor Hoffman is away February 20 – 27.

Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office February 21- February 25.

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