



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

Weekly STAR for February 27, 2022

Transfiguration Sunday



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY
star



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

As we prepare for worship this weekend, consider reading this week's lessons along with this reflection to ground yourself in the Word. This reflection comes from sundaysandseasons.com and is also printed on the back of the worship bulletin.

The transfiguration is frustrating for disciples—past and present—who long for an unmediated experience of God. Jesus' glory is revealed, and then, just as suddenly, a cloud descends and the vision fades. And even though Paul contrasts the Christian's experience of God with Moses's veiled experience of God, he notes that we see the glory of the Lord "as though reflected in a mirror" (2 Cor. 3:18). Even with unveiled faces, we don't see directly, or even clearly. Even when God is revealed in shining glory, much remains veiled and hidden.

As he witnesses Jesus' transfiguration, Peter's understanding remains veiled; ours does too. The glimpses we get of God's glory—through the veil or reflected in the mirror—are expectation-shattering, alarming, overwhelming, and awesome. The love of God shines too brightly to view directly, and yet we do have the privilege of directly experiencing that love in baptism, in communion, in service to God, and in relationship with God's creation and our neighbors in need. The veils we contend with daily are the barriers that prevent us from truly loving those neighbors, caring for creation, and seeing the shining face of Jesus in the faces of people who are different, hungry, difficult, enemy, invisible, or poor. God is always revealed in ways that surprise and confuse us, whether shining on the mountaintop or dying on the cross.

P. S. The vision of Christ transfigured on the mountaintop, means Lent is close at hand. Ash Wednesday is March 2. Be sure to view the Quarterly Mailer recently mailed to your home to read about the various opportunities available to connect to God, each other, and those beyond our Bethlehem walls in the coming Lenten season as we ponder together what it means to observe sabbath.

ARE YOU READY FOR LENTEN WORSHIP?

Sundays at 8:55 am
Worship with Communion (in-person and online)

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
Ash Wednesday on 3/2
Holden Evening Prayer (3/9 – 4/6)

1. [Facebook Live](#)
2. [Watch On YouTube](#) – Subscribe to our channel
3. [Livestream on the website](#)



Worship the Living God

Lessons for Sunday, 2/27

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

Lessons for Ash Wednesday, 3/2

Psalm 51:1–17; Matthew 6:1–6; 16–21

Lessons for Sunday, 3/6

Deuteronomy 26:1–11, Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16,
Romans 10:8b–13; Luke 4:1–13;

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

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.

★ Wednesdays in Lent

Ash Wednesday, March 2

- **Noon** - Outdoor liturgy on the Perrin Street sidewalk by the church's main entrance. In this brief liturgy (fifteen minutes or so), we will confess our sin, hear God's Word, offer prayer, and receive ashes as a sign of our mortality. Please note: because it is held outdoors, this worship is not available virtually!
- **7 pm** - Honest confession of our sin and our mortality mark the start of Lent and our observance of Ash Wednesday. Gather in the Sanctuary for a simple liturgy with Holy Communion or tune in virtually.

Weekly, beginning March 9

- **Noon – Pause for Prayer on Facebook Live**
Beginning Wednesday, March 9 and continuing through the season of Lent, we'll host a brief (5-10 minute) midweek pause for Word and prayer. Watch Facebook and the weekly STAR for details on how to join and how to share your prayer concerns.
- **6:15 pm – Sabbath Conversation**
Each week, Pastor Amy and Pastor Hoffman will share an article or other reading that provides a different perspective on Sabbath and then lead conversation in the sanctuary or virtually via Zoom (your choice). Reading materials will be shared in a weekly BLC Between Sundays email (see below). Come once or every week to deepen your sabbath understanding.
- **7 pm – Holden Evening Prayer**
Share in a beloved liturgy as we worship and pray with the Bethlehem community in-person or virtually.

★ **BLC Quarterly Mailer:** You should have received your most recent BLC quarterly mailer full of details about what is happening in the life of the congregation. If you did not receive the mailer, need one with larger print, or just have a suggestion or comment, please contact the church office.

★ **Bethlehem Between Sundays:** New this year, we will send a weekly email on Mondays with resources and tidbits – for further reflection, ways to put your faith into action, faith practices and more to sustain you *between Sundays*. We'll also include links to Sunday worship in case you missed it and a newly-developed podcast to listen to Sunday's sermon!

★ **Planning worship for Holy Week** is upon us! Would you like to help shape Bethlehem's observance of Holy Week? Join us via Zoom on **Tuesday, March 1** at 7 pm when we'll gather interested folks to give shape to the upcoming Holy Week. If you have questions, please reach out to one of the pastors! You can access the meeting link on BLC's [calendar of events](#).

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

This Sunday, February 27, following worship, John Schmeelk, our resident BLC historian, will share a little more about our founding history in words and photos. Witness the work of the Spirit as a small group of faith-filled Lutherans came together to create a congregation and build a church one hundred years ago.

If you missed seeing the Highlight Reel, a 20-minute video capturing conversations with 33 of our members, co-pastors, and some former pastors after worship last Sunday, look for it on the website. Go to blcfairport.org, click on 100th Anniversary in the top right corner, and open the Event Media button. We thank Jeff Cook and Pat Kurtz for the videotaping and Bob Stock for the editing. Also, thanks to Kathy Forney who read a poem written by Ann Rasbeck.

Schedule Changes: Our Tri-Congregational event, originally scheduled for March 18, has been rescheduled and will be combined with our Prism Concert to be held on April 29 here at BLC. Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Webster and Bethlehem, Plank Road will participate along with our own musical groups.

Also, Rev. Paul Adler (son of Rev. Dallas Adler, 1958-1966, and a former BLC member), our scheduled guest pastor on March 20, will be unable to join us due to lingering effects of COVID. He will send a taped message which will be shown that Sunday and will also be live-streamed.

On March 20, we are delighted to welcome our guest organist, Sarah Hawbecker (Organist and Choir Director 1988-1990) to play our prelude and postlude. Currently, Sarah is Organist and Director of Children's Music at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atlanta. Sarah earned her Bachelor of Music degree magna cum laude with Departmental Distinction at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN and her Master of Music Performance from the Eastman School of Music. Since then, she has created an impressive resume as a winner of numerous competitions, an active recitalist, workshop leader, adjudicator at several organ competitions, and full-time church musician. We look forward to Sarah's participation in our anniversary worship!

Grow in Faith and Discipleship

Faith Formation in February: LYO and Confirmation will meet in the LYO room together on 2/27, and pre-K to 5th grade in the Sunday School wing on **February 27** at 10:15 am!

★ On **February 27**, at 10:15 am, you are invited to view a history presentation with John Schmeelk from our 100th Anniversary Committee. This week's 10:15 option will be livestreamed just like worship, instead of joining via Zoom. Gather in the Sanctuary or visit [Share in Worship](#) for information on how to participate in the livestream.

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. For March 6, please read the section "Rest," pages 1-61.

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

★ **Men's Breakfast...Wednesday, March 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 Wayne Westcott at wcubed52@gmail.com or Jim Berner at jamesberner1@yahoo.com.

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

Care for One Another

★ **Thank you notes!**

- **Jim and I want to extend a big thank you** to all who offered meals, gift cards, transportation, and help with things that we were unable to do ourselves following the injury to my shoulder. The cards and notes containing get well wishes are another reminder that we are held in prayer by our BLC family. We are so blessed to be part of such a caring community of faith! ~ Sherry Cook

- **To all our Bethlehem friends, A million Thank You's** for all the cards, food, prayers and love being sent to Tom and I since my accident in August. We are truly overwhelmed with all the support. The Christmas bag was such a surprise and all the Valentine cards are wonderful! We are both doing well. We hope to get back to church soon. God Bless you all, Connie and Tom Specht
- **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

A Support Group for caregivers...next meetings are Tuesday, March 1 & 15: If you are caregiving for a loved one (elderly parent, spouse, relative or anyone dear to you), feel free to join us! We meet on the 1st and 3rd 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.



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.

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 \(signupgenius.com\)](#) 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.



Council News

★ **Re-Opening Team** met on February 23 to review Bethlehem's current Covid safety protocols. We will continue with our current practices as we monitor local infection rates.

- 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.

We Ask Your Prayers:

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

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Tom Specht who is hospitalized following a fall
- Those involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones
- Those infected with or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers

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

Community News

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 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 February 27 – March 3

(Last updated on 2/21/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 2/27

Transfiguration Sunday

8:55 am Worship with
Communion
(in-person
and livestream)
10:15 am 100th Anniversary
Historical Presentation
with John Schmeelk (in-
person and livestream)
10:15 am Faith
Formation for All
11:15 am Children's
Choir

Monday, 2/28

Tuesday, 3/1

2:00 pm Support Group for
Caregivers
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting
7:00 pm Holy Week
Planning Meeting ([Join](#)
via Zoom –
ID 812 3443 7417)

Wednesday, 3/2

Ash Wednesday

8:00 am Men's Breakfast
at The Landmark
Restaurant
9:30 am Bible Study –
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 943 3691 2942)
12:00 pm Outdoor liturgy
5:45 pm Chancel Bells
6:00 pm Folk Group
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday
Worship (in person and
livestream)
7:45 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, 3/3

11:00 am Share Our
Blessings Meeting ([Join](#)
via Zoom –
ID 868 9069 7840)
6:30 pm Officers
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 836 2369 6315)
7:00 pm BLC Quilters

Friday, 3/4

Pastor's Sabbath

2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal

Saturday, 3/5

Sunday, 3/6

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

Church Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M - 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.
