



WORSHIP



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CARE



SERVE

Weekly STAR for March 6, 2022

First Sunday in Lent



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.

An Identity on Which We Can Rely

In Luke's gospel, the story of Jesus' temptation comes immediately after his baptism and a lengthy listing of his ancestors. Both help confirm the identity of Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. Now Jesus is led into the wilderness, where his identity is put to the test by the devil. The specific temptations are in some ways secondary to the question that introduces two of them. Twice the devil asks, "If you are the Son of God . . ." (Luke 4:3, 9), perhaps implying that the devil believes he knows better than Jesus what it means to be God's Son. But Jesus, "full of the Holy Spirit," is able to stand firm in his identity and deny the devil's attempts to redefine who he is.

In our baptisms, we too are given the identity of God's child, and we are given the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our baptisms do not protect us from temptation, even as Jesus himself endured temptation. However, in our baptisms we are given an identity that can help us endure the temptations and the challenges that our lives are bound to include. Baptism gives us the confidence to trust that our identity is defined by our relationship to God, and not by anything else. In this confidence, we can accept our failures and shortcomings and live boldly in a manner that seeks to emulate Christ's own life.

ARE YOU READY FOR LENTEN WORSHIP?

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

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
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, 3/6
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Lessons for Wednesday, 3/9
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Lessons for Sunday, 3/13
Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18;
Luke 13: 31-35

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

Worship: During this Lenten season we worship each week on Sunday at 8:55 am and Wednesday at 7:00 pm (both in-person and livestream). Visit [Share in Worship](#) for information on how to participate in the livestream. Look at the [Gathering Again](#) page on our website, for the latest updates.

Wednesdays in Lent: 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, see the [BLC Calendar of Events](#) to join via Zoom). 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.

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!

★ **Easter Flowers & Alternate giving... Order deadline is Sunday, March 27, 2022...** Help us decorate our worship space and take home your bulbs after Easter Sunday. You can also support this year's alternate giving option. Place your order at <https://blcfairport.org/easter-flower-alternate-giving/>.

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 John Schmeelk for sharing a little more about Bethlehem's early history with us last Sunday. If you missed it, you will find his presentation on our website at blcfairport.org. Just click on 100th Anniversary in the top right corner and then on the Event Media button.

If you are following the Calendar of Events posted in the Narthex or online on the Anniversary website, you have seen that our March 18 Tri-Congregational event has been rescheduled. It will be combined with our April 29 Prism Concert held here at BLC. Musicians from Immanuel, Webster and Bethlehem, Plank Road, will join 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 not be participating due to lingering effects of COVID. Pastor Adler will be sending a taped message which will be played that Sunday; it will also be live streamed.

We are delighted to welcome back our second guest organist, Sarah Hawbecker (Organist and Choir Director 1988-1990) at our March 20 Anniversary Service. A graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN and the Eastman School of Music, Sarah has a varied organ repertoire and is recognized as a specialist with children's choirs. Currently, Sarah is Organist and Director of Children's Music at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atlanta.

We are pleased to learn that a number of former members and friends from out-of-town are hoping to return during our Anniversary celebration. Among those hoping to visit are Fred and Margo Schmidt, Drevvi and Hoby Lowry, and Kevin and Lynn Ayers. In addition, former staff, including Doreen Duane (intern student from Colgate Rochester Divinity School 1983-1987), Pastor Paula Roulette (interim Associate Pastor 2012-2013), and Pastor David Connor (Intentional Interim Pastor 2009-2010), have indicated they will join us at some point. Contact Jim Berner at 585-314-9432 if you know of others who plan to attend or if you have any questions.

Grow in Faith and Discipleship

★ **Faith Formation in March:** Pre-K to 5th grade and Confirmation (6-8th grade) will in the Sunday School wing on **March 6, 13, 20 & 27** at 10:15 am! See the *Live* section for info on our new Youth Group opportunity for LYO & Confirmation students (grades 6-12).

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. For **March 6**, please read the section “Rest,” pages 1-61.

★ **Confirmation Camp: July 10-15** at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center in Bemus Point, NY. Open to all youth in grades 6-8. Half of cost is covered for first time participants by BLC, and financial assistance is available in the case of financial need. Please contact Pr. Amy if your child is planning to attend Confirmation Camp in 2022 at pastor.amy@blcfairport.org. To register (if not attending for the first time) or to learn about other great LCLC Summer Camp opportunities (for elementary to high school aged youth!) please visit <https://lclcenter.org/summer-programs/>.

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

★ **Devotional resources:** The April - June editions of Portals of Prayer and Christ in our home are available in the sanctuary and narthex. We also usually have extra copies of Spark Family Magazine and the Living Lutheran Magazine available at the welcome table in the narthex. A paper copy of Bethlehem's Lenten devotional on Sabbath is also available in the Narthex. You can also [request daily devotions emailed to you](#) from now through Easter Sunday!

★ **Ruth Circle** meets on Monday, **March 14** at BLC (and typically the 2nd Monday of each month) at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying the book by Max Lucado, “Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World”. Any questions, please call Ruth Kurtz at 388-2608 or e-mail ruthkurtz22@gmail.com. All are welcome to join us for study and fellowship.

★ **LYO is now Youth Group!** LYO will be changing its meeting time for the remainder of the year! I am very very excited to announce that we will be having Youth Group the first Sunday of each month from 6-7:30 pm in the LYO room. Confirmation and LYO students are welcome! This will feel like a mini lock in with games, fellowship, and bible study. RSVP on the [BLC Calendar of Events](#) listings for March 6, April 3 & May 1. Please contact Bethany Trippi with any questions.

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 17...** Wear your mask.

Care for One Another

★ **Help us remember our homebound in March:** While we have no birthdays in March, Spring and St. Patrick's Day offer great reasons to send a greeting. We encourage you to reach out to these members who are not able to attend worship and related activities with us on a regular basis. Any occasion is a good time to remind them that they remain in our thoughts and prayers as members of our community of faith here at BLC. For further information, please contact Donna Berner at donnaberner@yahoo.com.

A Support Group for caregivers...next meeting is Tuesday, March 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.

Thank you!

- **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



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](#). We'll meet next on Tuesday, **March 8** at 6:15 pm. Please reach out to Julie Owen at jowen@heritagechristianservices.org with interests or questions.

★ **Say hello to our companion synods!** Pentecost Sunday, June 5, is also Global Companion Sunday. Record a 15 second video of you and/or your family saying hello and sending a greeting to our sisters and brothers in Zimbabwe and Zambia. Send this video as an MP4 to Beth Walker, rbowsend@rochester.rr.com or 315 945-5539 and she will compile them and post them with a YouTube link for our companions to view. Please be aware, if you have children in the videos, that this will be seen by others.

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

★ **Organ Repair Scheduled** - David Moore, the builder of BLC's Organ, will be here to do scheduled repair work the week of March 6. David will be in and out of the building to work on the organ. We anticipate the organ will be back in use by Sunday, March 13.

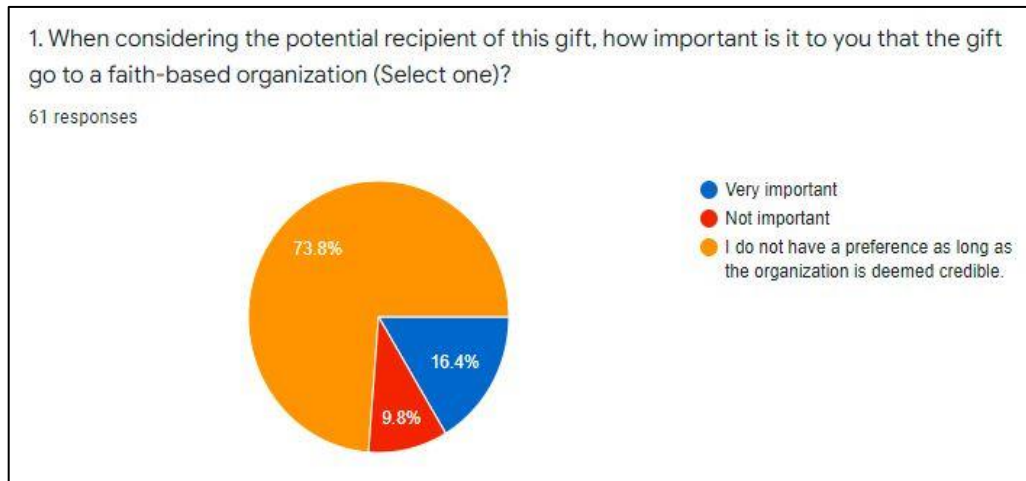
Re-Opening Team met on February 23 to review Bethlehem's current Covid safety protocols. We will continue with our current practices as we monitor local infection rates.

- 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.

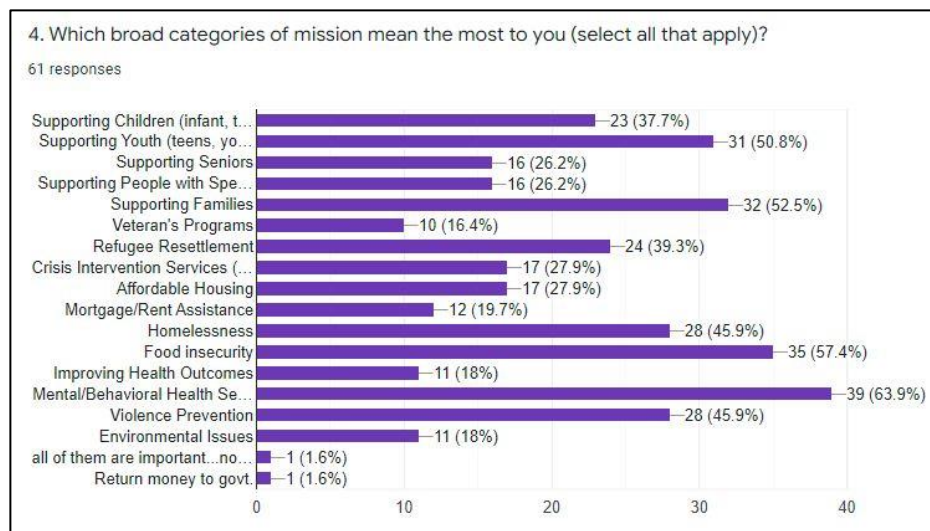
As always, we encourage people to stay at home if they are sick or are experiencing any Covid-related symptoms.

★ **Sharing Our Blessings Update:** The Sharing Our Blessings Team wants to thank the Congregation for responding to the survey. We received more than 60 responses and the information gathered will inform the types of organizations we invite to apply for funding within the priorities approved by Council. While we have yet to determine the number of gifts to be made, the following two data points are particularly helpful.

First, we learned that the Congregation is comfortable supporting an organization that is not faith based if that organization is credible and aligns with a mission priority.



Second, that we are a caring community with a wide variety of charitable interests and that as a community if faith, our congregation would like to be able to volunteer with the recipient(s) selected. While giving to issues elevated as a result of the pandemic in and of itself was not deemed a high priority overall, as the chart below indicates, many of these issues emerged as significant concerns.



Over the next couple of weeks, the Team will refine the list of priorities, develop a simple grant application, and research organizations to invite to apply. Many of you suggested organizations which will also be considered.

The Sharing Our Blessings Team will continue to keep the Congregation informed as we work through this effort. If you see one of us feel free to ask questions.

Sharing Our Blessings Team
 Cathy Gottermeier
 Alli O'Malley
 Julie Owen
 Lisa Rosenbauer
 Alan Sleeman
 Pr. Amy Walter-Peterson

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 recovering at home after hospitalization following a fall on 2/23
- Jim, brother of Phyllis Stock, who began radiation 3/1 for throat cancer
- Sandy Parsons, sister of Susie DePasquale who is recovering from surgery for a broken hip after a fall on 2/27.
- Michael Fonte (brother-in-law of Ron Meier, Kitty's brother) who is entering hospice care following a heart attack
- 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 March 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 March 6 – March 13

(Last updated on 3/2/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

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
11:15 am Children's Choir
6:00 pm Youth Night (for grades 6-12, RSVP requested)

Monday, 3/7

Tuesday, 3/8

6:15 pm M&SC Meeting ([Join](#) via Zoom – ID 812 1431 6292)
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019 Meeting

Wednesday, 3/9

9:30 am Bible Study – ([Join](#) via Zoom – ID 943 3691 2942)
12:00 pm Pause for Prayer on Facebook Live
5:45 pm Chancel Bells
6:15 pm Folk Group
6:15 pm Sabbath Conversation (In-person or [Join](#) via Zoom – ID 832 6893 0474)
7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service (in person and livestream)
7:45 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, 3/10

10:30 am Share Our Blessings Meeting ([Join](#) via Zoom – ID 868 9069 7840)
11:30 am Holy Week Liturgical Planning
6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting

Friday, 3/11

Pastor's Sabbath
2:30 pm Dulcimer Group Rehearsal

Saturday, 3/12

9:15 am BLC Property Committee

Sunday, 3/13

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
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 - 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.
