



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

Weekly STAR for March 13, 2022

Second 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.

Purpose and Perseverance

This week's gospel text from Luke presents another temptation for Jesus. The Pharisees approach Jesus with a warning about his safety, telling him to "get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you" (Luke 13:31). Not only do the Pharisees want Jesus to leave, but one can assume they also want Jesus to stop doing what he was doing: speaking against the Pharisees, teaching about God, and healing on the sabbath. We know the Pharisees are "very hostile" (Luke 11:53) toward Jesus, so we can conclude that their warning is not a genuine expression of concern but rather an attempt to stop his mission and ministry.

However, Jesus will not be distracted or turned away from his purpose, even if that includes moving toward his own death in Jerusalem. In Jesus' ability to fulfill his purpose, even in the midst of opposition, we find inspiration as we seek to live our lives in concert with God's purposes. As Christians, Jesus' purpose is our purpose. The church, the body of Christ, doesn't exist for itself. Rather, the church exists to be a partner with God in God's mission to love, bless, and reconcile the world.



Worship the Living God

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](#)

Lessons for Sunday, 3/13

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18;
Luke 13: 31-35

Lessons for Wednesday, 3/16

Psalm 27

Lessons for Sunday, 3/20

Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9

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.

★ **Daylight Savings Time starts on 3/13** – Don't forget to change your clocks on **March 12!**

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

Wednesdays in Lent: Weekly

- **Noon – Mid-day 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 the Bethlehem Lutheran Facebook page for an Event listing to join. Share your prayer concerns in the event comments.
- **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! If you've not yet seen the Between Sundays email in your inbox, please contact the church office.

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

As you have heard, our March 18 Tri-Congregational event has been rescheduled. It will now be combined with our Prism Concert to be held on April 29 here at BLC. Watch for more details as we welcome our parent church, Bethlehem Lutheran/Plank Road, and our grandparent church, Immanuel Lutheran in Webster, for an evening of music.

Next Sunday, March 20, we are pleased to welcome organist Sarah Hawbecker (Organist and Choir Director 1988-1990) to play the prelude and postlude at our Anniversary Service. Sarah will be coming from Atlanta where she is Organist and Director of Children's Music at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Sarah was a student at Eastman School of Music when she accepted a job as our Organist and Director of Choirs. Sarah recognized the need for an accompanist and we thank her for introducing us to Susan DePasquale. After Sarah graduated and moved away, Susie was hired as our full-time organist, serving for 30 years until she retired in 2021. Thank you, Sarah!

Unfortunately, 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 attend because of illness. Pastor Adler will be sending a taped message which will be played during worship; it will be live streamed as well.

On Friday, April 1, you are invited to a showing of the 1988 and 2003 BLC productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on a large screen in the sanctuary. You will see both casts: Act 1 will be from the 1988 production and Act 2 from 2003. Admission is free but requires a ticket which is available in the narthex by the Anniversary bulletin board. Bring your friends and family to this fun evening. Enjoy the productions, popcorn, and even meet a few returning players in costume!

Are you a former choir member or just want to sing with the Chancel Choir? We have a robe for you! Former directors Karie Templeton (1984-1988) and Dr. Brandon Johnson (2003-2008) welcome you to join the choir when each returns as a guest director in the coming months. Stay tuned for more details.

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 13, 20 & 27** at 10:15 am! See the Live section for an update to the LYO schedule (and a new opportunity for Confirmation!)

Lenten Book Study on Sabbath... Sundays at 10:15 am (**March 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 13**, read the section “The Rhythm of Creation” (p. 65-93) and “Evening” (p. 217-221).

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 returns to Hybrid on 3/23!** We had moved to Zoom only in the winter months, but after our March 16 study (which will be Zoom only), we’re excited to welcome back those who would like to join in-person. The Zoom option remains available as well. We continue to study 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 in the Fellowship Hall or 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. Extra copies of Spark Family Magazine, Living Lutheran Magazine, and paper copies of Bethlehem’s Lenten devotional on Sabbath are also available in the Narthex. You can also [request daily devotions emailed to you](#) from now through Easter Sunday!

Ruth Circle will meet at BLC on Monday, March 14 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing Chapter 10, (Cling to Christ) 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 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! We are 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 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.



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 will meet virtually on Tuesday, March 22 at 6:15 pm. You can join through on BLC's [calendar of events](#). Please reach out to Julie Owen at jowen@heritagechristianservices.org with interests or questions.

★ **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, 3/13 (this Sunday). 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.

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

★ **February Council Highlights** - The BLC Council met on February 17. Actions and discussions included the following:

- Voted to approve Bylaws guiding the Investment in Ministries Fund. The congregation will have the opportunity to vote on these Bylaws at a specially-called congregational meeting on May 15.
- The BLC Scholarship Fund has only enough funds to provide awards for 2-3 more rounds of scholarship distribution. The Council has decided not to accept additional contributions to this fund. It will close when current dollars are distributed. Council remains committed to supporting the youth of this congregation in mission and ministry through other avenues.
- With 4 months of the fiscal year complete, giving and expenses are both tracking very close to plan. This is particularly good news as these first 4 months constitute 40% of our annual receipts.

The Council will next meet in person on March 17 at 6:30 pm. BLC Council members are Brian Edwards, Aderyn Gantner, Andy Gates, Margie Gaul, Mike Higgins, Glenda Lockard, Lisa Meetze, Lisa Rosenbauer & Liana Thibault & Toni Thompson.

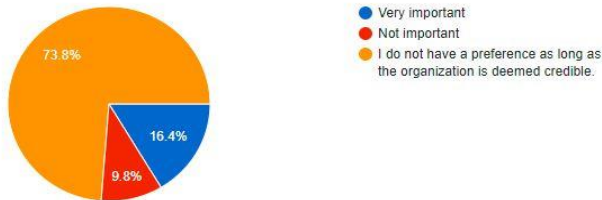
★ **Upcoming Vote on the Investment in Ministries Fund:** At our Annual Meeting on October 31, 2021 the congregation of Bethlehem Lutheran Church approved the Resolution to establish the Investment in Ministries Fund (IMF), an endowment fund designed to expand the ministries supported by BLC. At their February meeting, BLC's Council voted to approve the Bylaws guiding the Investment in Ministries Fund. The congregation will be asked to approve these Bylaws to formally establish this Fund at a specially called congregational meeting which is scheduled for May 15.

Over the next several weeks we will be sharing additional information about the Investment in Ministries Fund in the STAR to give you the information you need to make an informed decision to adopt the Bylaws. Each week, copies of these articles will also be available on the table in the narthex. If you prefer, you can access these articles on the IMF website at <https://blcfairport.org/imf>. For more information, please contact any member of the IMF Team: Paulette Costanza, Roger Kolker, Neil Vokes, Mark Gaul, John Panko, or John Costanza.

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.

1. When considering the potential recipient of this gift, how important is it to you that the gift go to a faith-based organization (Select one)?

61 responses



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

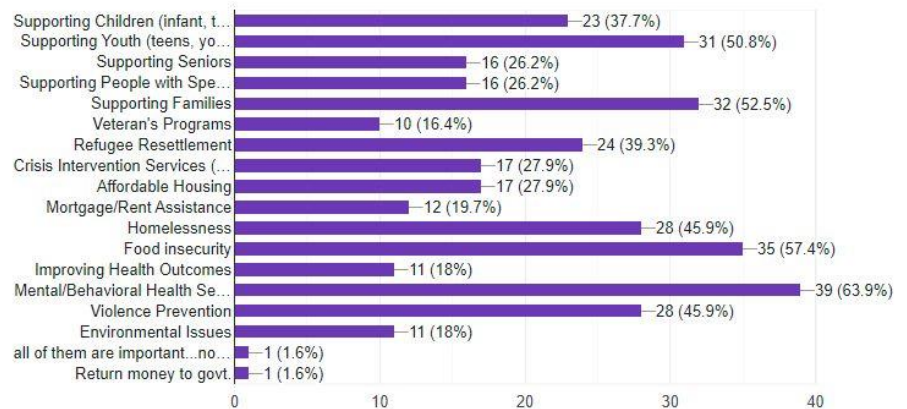
elevated as a result of the pandemic in and of itself was not deemed a high priority overall, as the chart below indicates, many of these issues emerged as significant concerns.

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

4. Which broad categories of mission mean the most to you (select all that apply)?

61 responses



Community News

★ Our neighbors in Ukraine are suffering and they need your love now. Families are leaving behind everything they own and fleeing for their safety. They need immediate aid including food, water, shelter, clothing and medical care. Lutheran World Relief delivers urgent support and care, like critically needed items for families who fled their homes, and medicine and supplies for clinics. To learn more or support [Lutheran World Relief](http://lwr.org) visit lwr.org.

★ **Flower City Habitat for Humanity:** Our Henrietta ReStore has many open shifts that need volunteers! Shifts available at: https://give.rochesterhabitat.org/volunteer_calendar We appreciate all that our volunteers do. For more information, contact Madison Leonard, Volunteer Coordinator at (585) 546-1470 ext. 315

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!)



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

- Michael Fonte (brother-in-law of Ron Meier) who died on 3/4

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Julie Ramey-Storch (family friend of Kim Kulik) who is undergoing chemotherapy
- Rev. Rob Moore (former pastor and friend of Andy Gates)
- Jim, brother of Phyllis Stock, who began radiation 3/1 for throat cancer
- Sandy Parsons (sister of Susie DePasquale) who is recovering from hip surgery after a fall on 2/27
- Tom Specht who is recovering at home after hospitalization following a fall on 2/23
- 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 March long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!

Calendar for March 13 – March 20

(Last updated on 3/16/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 3/13

Daylight Savings

Time begins!

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)

Monday, 3/14

1:00 pm Ruth Circle

Tuesday, 3/15

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

Wednesday, 3/16

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
6:00 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, 3/17

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

Friday, 3/18

Pastor's Sabbath

2:30 pm Dulcimer Group Rehearsal

Saturday, 3/19

Sunday, 3/20

100th Anniversary Sunday

8:55 am Worship with Communion with guest musician Sarah Hawbecker (in-person and livestream)
10:15 am 100th Anniversary Sanctuary conversation with recorded greeting from Rev. Paul Adler and Q&A with Sarah (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

Pastor Amy is away March 14-19.

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.
