



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

Weekly STAR for March 20, 2022

Third Sunday in Lent



BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY  
*star*



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

### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reflection by Shiellee Weidner

I have been studying the Bible regularly for about 40 years and have discovered that it really does hold all of the answers to how to live a happy life. For instance, I had spent the early years of my life worrying about things that might happen, but often never DID come to pass. I think that worry is a coping mechanism that I had developed as a child, thinking that if I worried I could somehow protect myself from being forced to deal with a negative situation. As a result of studying God's word, gradually I've learned that worry does not come from God!

Actually, the Bible says that we are to live only in today, that we can't change yesterday because yesterday is gone. Only God knows what tomorrow will bring so we must keep our minds centered on today. Little by little I began to realize that when a problem comes along, the best thing to do is to turn it over to God in prayer!

In the beginning I found that praying like this would give me some relief, but worrying had become such a habit that the negative thoughts would pop right back into my mind over and over again.

God and I spent many years tossing worry back and forth until I learned in a *new way* to really trust our wonderful Lord! I finally learned that God would keep the worry and would only give it back to me with my permission.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*  
Philippians 4: 6-7

*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 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, 3/20

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

### Lessons for Wednesday, 3/16

Psalms 27

### Lessons for Sunday, 3/27

2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

★ **Worship Servants for Holy Week:** To ensure appropriate coverage, we plan to pre-schedule the worship servants for the services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. If you would like to be an acolyte/light bearer, prayer reader, or learn more about other speaking parts for Palm Sunday and Good Friday, please contact the church office! (Watch for a communication next week about the Holy Week and Easter Sunday service offerings for 4/10 – 4/17!)

**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

- **Noon – Mid-day Prayer on Facebook Live**  
Throughout 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.

**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:** The flowers on the altar this week were given anonymously to the Glory of God and in honor of BLC's 100<sup>th</sup> 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!*

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

# 100 YEARS

This Sunday, we welcome Sarah Hawbecker as our guest organist. While earning her Master of Music in Organ Performance at Eastman School of Music, Sarah served as Bethlehem's Organist and Choir Director from 1988-1990. Currently, she is Organist and Director of Children's Music at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atlanta. Read more about Sarah in today's bulletin.

Following worship, there will be an informal gathering in the sanctuary when folks can talk with Sarah and hear more about her background, including her specialty, working with children's choirs. In addition, we will show a taped message from Rev. Paul Adler (son of Rev. Dallas Adler, 1958-1966, and a former BLC member). Rev. Adler was a scheduled guest pastor for this Sunday, but is unable to attend due to illness. His message will also be live streamed.

On Friday, April 1 at 7 pm, you are invited to a showing of the 1998 (Act 1) and 2003 (Act 2) BLC productions of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in the Sanctuary. 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.

Worship on Sunday, April 3 will be a first with three returning guests at one anniversary service. Dr. Kent Garner (Senior Pastor 1977-2008), who is now retired and lives in Ft. Myers, FL, will be returning, along with his wife, Linda, to lead worship. Dr. Mark Coffey (Organist and Director of Choirs 1981-1984) will be our guest organist, playing the prelude and postlude. Currently, Dr. Coffey is Director of Music and Organist at First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville, FL. Lastly, Dr. Brandon Johnson (Director of Chancel Choir 2003-2008) will direct the choir's anthem. Dr. Johnson is the Director of Choral Activities at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI and the artistic director and conductor of the Detroit Concert Choir.

Former Chancel Choir members are invited to join current choir members for the anthem under Dr. Johnson's leadership. Also, some former members may choose this Sunday to return for an anniversary visit. 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade and Confirmation (6-8<sup>th</sup> grade) will in the Sunday School wing on **March 20 & 27** at 10:15 am!

**Lenten Book Study on Sabbath...** Sundays at 10:15 am (**March 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 20**, read the section "Time" (pages 97-119) and "Morning" (pages 222-225).

**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](mailto: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. We are excited to welcome 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](mailto:kathymoragne@gmail.com).



## Live Our Faith in Daily Life

**LYO is now Youth Group (for Confirmation and LYO)!** 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.



## Care for One Another

★ **Funeral/Memorial Assistance Needed:** There are several behind the scenes activities that occur when a funeral is scheduled, as well as volunteer opportunities within the service (as a communion assistant, lector, usher, and more). If you would like to be contacted to volunteer when a need arises (often with just a few days' notice!) or learn more about supporting the friends and family of Bethlehem around memorial services, 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 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](mailto:jowen@heritagechristianservices.org) with interests or questions.

**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](mailto: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.

Watch this space for highlights from our meeting 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.

# Community News

★ **An Interfaith Conversation on Anti-Semitism** with Fr. Joseph Hart and Larry Fine:

Thursday March 24, 2022, 7 pm hosted by Our Lady Queen of Peace, 601 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester. In person or RSVP for Zoom at [Info@brennangoldman.com](mailto:Info@brennangoldman.com)

**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](https://lwr.org) visit [lwr.org](https://lwr.org).

**Flower City Habitat for Humanity:** Our Henrietta ReStore has many open shifts that need volunteers! If you have the interest and the time, please consider signing up. Shifts can be found here: [https://give.rochesterhabitat.org/volunteer\\_calendar](https://give.rochesterhabitat.org/volunteer_calendar). We appreciate all that our volunteers do. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Madison Leonard, Volunteer Coordinator at (585) 546-1470 ext. 315

## 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:*

- Kathy Schneemann who is dealing with ongoing health concerns
- Chris Heim who has entered in-home hospice
- Julie Ramey-Storch (family friend of Kim Kulik) who is undergoing chemotherapy
- Rev. Rob Moore (former pastor and friend of Andy Gates)
- Those who are caregivers for loved ones
- Those who are ill from Coronavirus and all who care for them

[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](http://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](http://www.blcfairport.org)



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



## Calendar for March 13 – March 20

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

### Sunday, 3/20

#### *100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday*

8:55 am Worship with  
Communion with guest  
musician Sarah  
Hawbecker (in-person  
and livestream)

10:15 am 100<sup>th</sup>

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

### Monday, 3/21

7:00 pm PEM/EMP  
Meeting

### Tuesday, 3/22

#### *Church Office closed*

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

### Wednesday, 3/23

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, 3/24

6:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting

### Friday, 3/25

#### *Pastor's Sabbath*

2:30 pm Dulcimer  
Group Rehearsal

### Saturday, 3/26

### Sunday, 3/27

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

Beth will be out of the office on Tuesday, 3/22

**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.

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