



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

Weekly STAR for March 27, 2022

Fourth 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.

Less Grumbling, More Humbling

Grumbling! The crowd around Jesus—the “in” crowd, that is—was grumbling. Grumbling because Jesus welcomed those who traditionally had been set apart: tax collectors and sinners. Who are those who cause us to grumble? Whose seemingly undeserved handout or unearned status change filled our hearts with resentment this week? Jesus speaks to us today because we too often see life as a game with winners and losers, points and playbooks, offense and defense. Can we open our hearts and minds to hear today's humbling good news? God's love is freely shared with all: we cannot earn it, we cannot deserve it. When we attend worship, we do so out of thanksgiving and praise for God's glory, hunger and thirst for God's word and sacrament. We do not attend worship to achieve some status within God's kingdom. When we help a neighbor, share with a stranger, assist the afflicted, or acknowledge the overlooked we do so because Christ first did the same for us. We respond to God's grace and mercy with our own feeble attempts to emulate God's perfect love. It is challenging, exhausting, never-ending, perspective-altering, radically humbling work. It's work that is impossible to do without the inspiration of Christ, the nourishment of wine and bread, and the strength of the saints who have gone before us and with whom we walk Christ's path today. Let us find those in our world who teach us about Christ's unending reconciliation, so that we can all celebrate and rejoice as the family of 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](#)



Worship the Living God

Lessons for Sunday, 3/27

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

Lessons for Wednesday, 3/30

Psalms 32

Lessons for Sunday, 4/3

Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

★ **Extending an invitation...** On Sunday morning, we have a number of roles to be filled so that worship happens smoothly. Thank you to all who say "yes" to serving as a worship leader each week! We also need to make sure that each of these roles are filled. Mostly, the Pastors have checked and double-checked the list each week, but we could use your help! *We are looking for a few people willing to help extend the invitation, asking people to serve in these roles on Sunday morning and making sure they are all filled in time for worship.* Let one of the co-Pastors know if you can help!

★ *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.

★ **Mask Survey:** The Bethlehem community is diverse with regards to COVID vaccination status and risk-factors. We seek to provide an environment that allows people of various risk levels to participate in community together and we place the highest priority on creating a safe and inclusive worship environment. When determining guidance, we recognize that not all people have the same risk tolerance. As we explore further changes to our COVID protocols we're asking members of the BLC community to [complete this brief survey](#) by Wednesday, March 30.

Last chance to order 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/>.

★ **Planning for the Easter Season:** Would you like to help shape Bethlehem's worship life for the coming season? Join us via Zoom on **Monday, March 28 at 4:30 pm** when we'll gather interested folks to give shape to the upcoming liturgical season. 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!*

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.

★ **Holy Week at BLC**

- **April 10, Palm/Passion Sunday**
8:55 am – Palm/Passion Sunday worship with Holy Communion, in-person and livestreamed
Share in our processional "parade" by sharing a picture or short video of yourself waving a palm branch! These will be shown as we raise our palm branches and sing!
Join the Palm Processional... Submit by 4/3... Worship on Palm Sunday (4/10) traditionally begins with processing around the worship space, waving our palms, singing "All Glory, Laud and Honor." Take part in this joyful procession by sending in a photo or video of your household waving your palm branch ([download a copy here](#)). We'll create a "parade" across our screens as part of worship and see Jesus in the faces of our beloved BLC community! Photos and videos should be submitted through our Media Submissions folder in Box (contact the church office if you need access). [Contact Pastor Hoffman](#) with additional questions! Feel free to draw a palm or use greens from your own home.
- **April 14, Maundy Thursday**
7 pm – Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion, in-person and livestreamed
- **April 15, Good Friday**
12 – 3 pm – Private prayer and silent devotion in the Bethlehem sanctuary. (Enter through the Perrin Street lift entrance.)
7 pm – Stations of the Cross, in-person and livestreamed
- **April 17, Easter Sunday**
7:30 am – Gather outdoors at Bethlehem to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with word, prayer, and communion! This outdoor gathering (rain or shine!) will not be livestreamed.
8:55 am – Festive Easter Celebration with Holy Communion, in-person and livestreamed

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!

100th Anniversary News

100 YEARS

Our thanks to Sarah Hawbecker, our returning guest organist last Sunday, who traveled from Atlanta to be part of our Anniversary celebration. Sarah served as our Organist and Choir Director while a graduate student at Eastman School and it was wonderful to reconnect with her.

Please join us on Friday, April 1 at 7 pm for the showing of the 1998 (Act 1) and 2003 (Act 2) BLC productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in the sanctuary. Tickets are free but are required and are available in the narthex by the anniversary bulletin board. Bring your family and friends and enjoy meeting some of the original cast members in costume.

On Sunday, April 3, we welcome three returning guests. Rev. Kent Garner (Senior Pastor 1977-2008) will lead worship, Dr. Mark Coffey (Organist and Director of Choirs 1981-1984) will be our guest organist, and Dr. Brandon Johnson (Director of Chancel Choir 2003-2008) will direct the choir's anthem. Former Chancel Choir members are invited to join the current choir under Dr. Johnson's leadership.

Pastor Garner led our congregation for 31 years through a period of tremendous growth in membership and ministry as well as major remodeling and expansion projects. His wife, Linda, will be returning with him. While on staff, Dr. Coffey served a vital role in the selection of our current organ. As part of the Organ Research Sub-Committee, he shared his insights and organ knowledge, and even drove to Vermont to meet the builder, A. David Moore. Karen, his wife, will be returning with him. Another tidbit: Dr. Johnson traveled back and forth from Houghton College, Houghton, NY twice a week for Wednesday rehearsals and Sunday worship during his five years on our staff. Both Dr. Coffey and Dr. Johnson specifically asked to be scheduled with Pastor Garner.

If you have not yet purchased an anniversary throw, there are still a few available. There will be an opportunity next Sunday, April 3 in the narthex. Contact Sherry Cook at 598-3308 or at scCook826@rochester.rr.com.

Mark your calendar for the Anniversary Tree Planting following worship on April 10. This event will highlight our theme of Rooted in Christ - Growing in Faith - Sharing His Love and will be a tangible reminder of this special anniversary that will stand on the corner of Church and Perrin Streets will into our future!

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 27** at 10:15 am! Check back next week for info on the April schedules.

Lenten Book Study on Sabbath... Sundays at 10:15 am (**March 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 27**, read the section "Happiness" (pages 123-153) and the first part of "Wisdom" (pages 157-171).

Midweek Bible Study is Hybrid again: 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.

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, **April 19** 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.

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.

Don't miss out! – The Upstate NY Synod has a newsletter called the Upstate Update AND a new communications director. Don't miss out on learning opportunities and what's happening in our synod. Sign up for the newsletter at [Upstate New York Synod | Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(upstatenysynod.org\)](#). Please scroll all the way to the bottom of the page to subscribe.

Lutheran Organization 101 - Is the word Synod new to you? Our Synod is one geographical district of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The Upstate NY Synod contains 170 individual congregations. The English word *synod* comes from two Greek words *syn* + *hodos* that mean “common road.” A synod is the people of the congregations and other ministries traveling the way of faith together. Within our national ELCA church:

- Congregations group together to become **Conferences**
There are 7 Conferences in the Upstate NY Synod. We are part of the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference. We have a conference dean; Rev Jonathan Deibler who is also the pastor at St. John's, Victor. Here is a map of the ELCA Conferences in NY [Conferences and Deans — Upstate New York Synod | Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(upstatenysynod.org\)](#)
- Conferences group together to become **Synods**
We are in the Upstate NY Synod under the leadership of Bishop Lee Miller, II.
- 65 Synods in the US form the national **ELCA** based in Chicago.
Our national presiding bishop is Rev. Elizabeth Eaton. You can read about her at [Presiding Bishop - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](#)

The ELCA is one of many Lutheran denominations – but that discussion is for another day!



Council News

★ **March Council Highlights** - The BLC Council met on March 17. Highlights from this month are

- A Special Congregational Meeting will be held 5/15/22 to approve the IMF Bylaws.
- Work was done on the organ by builder David Moore.
- The issue with the building's heat after the weekend of 3/13 was addressed and fixed.

The Council will next meet on April 21st 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.

★ **The IMF Team:** At our upcoming Special Congregational Meeting on May 15th, you will be asked to approve the IMF Bylaws to formally establish the Investment in Ministries Fund for BLC. We want you to have all the information you need to make an informed decision. The Investment in Ministries Fund (IMF) is administered by the IMF Team, an ad hoc committee of the Finance Committee, composed of 6 appointed members of the congregation (Paulette Costanza, Roger Kolker, Neil Vokes, Mark Gaul, John Panko, and John Costanza) and 1 additional member from the Finance Committee (Andy Gates). Since July, 2019 the Investment in Ministries team has been working with the Finance Committee, Missions and Social Concerns Committee and Council to determine the purpose and direction of the fund and to meet all regulatory requirements for establishing an endowment fund for BLC.

The Investment in Ministries Fund will be invested to generate reasonable growth while carefully safeguarding the principal. Gifts made to the fund will be managed with care and prudence. The principal of each gift – the original gift or bequest – will remain intact and will be invested to produce income. Endowment gifts can support new ministries or provide additional support for existing ministries. Awards from the fund (I.e., fund disbursements) will be recommended by the Missions & Social Concerns Committee and approved by Council. The Investment in Ministries Fund will be used to support development and expansion of the ministries beyond our walls that are not part of BLC's Annual Operating Budget. For more information, please contact any member of the IMF Team: Paulette Costanza, Roger Kolker, Neil Vokes, Mark Gaul, John Panko, or John Costanza.

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 Winter (dear family friend of Hans Walter-Peterson) who died on 3/24
- Desmin (brother of Niyen Russin who is the son of Danielle Betts) who died tragically on 3/21
- Patricia Skehan (sister of Ginny Schumacher) who died on 3/21
- Paul Majewski (father Haley who is a member of BSA Troop 2019) who died unexpectedly
- Mildred Traas (friend of Ron & Kitty Meier) who died on 3/20

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Lorie (friend of David and Marsha Gerhardt) as she faces a new cancer diagnosis and undergoes significant treatment
- Mary Hedin (mother of Jeff Hedin) who suffered a stroke last week
- Kathy Schneemann who is dealing with ongoing health concerns
- 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!

Community News

★ **Enjoy an evening of music!** Striking Strings Hammered Dulcimer Ensemble (Linda Sniedze Taggart, Director) will hold a free concert on Friday, April 8 at 7 pm. Join them live at Mountain Rise United Church of Christ, 2 Mountain Rise, Fairport or livestream at Mountain Rise Facebook (<http://facebook.com/pg/MtnRiseUCC/videos/>)

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](#) visit lwr.org.

★ **Join us for an ecumenical walk for peace:** We will gather in the parking lot at Corpus Christi Church (864 E Main St) at 11:30 am and soon depart on our walk towards Saint Michael, making fourteen stops along the way in places where violent crimes have occurred for reflection and prayer for peace with the Stations of the Cross. The Way of the Cross will be made present along the way as members of our community will be dressed up and playing the different characters of the Passion of Our Lord. When we arrive at Saint Michael's, around 2:30 pm all will be invited in to rejoice in the beauty of the church and Sacred Music for 30 minutes. Cars can be left at Corpus Christi, a bus will be available for those unable to walk the distance, the bus will join us on the walk and stop at each of the stations with us. The bus will bring all in attendance back to Corpus Christi from Saint Michael at the end of the walk, and again after the 30 minutes of Sacred Music. For more information and/or to let us know you are joining contact Father Daniel Ruiz at (585)210-3024 (call or text) or via email at fr.daniel.ruiz@dor.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. 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

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

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

Calendar for March 27 – April 3

(Last updated on 3/23/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

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

Monday, 3/28

4:30 pm Easter Season
Planning Meeting ([Join](#)
via Zoom –
ID 861 5731 4289)

Tuesday, 3/29

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting
7:00 pm Officer's Special
Meeting ([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 899 9675 2398)

Wednesday, 3/30

9:30 am Bible Study –
(in-person or
[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, 3/31

6:30 pm Re-Opening Team
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 854 1243 9964)
7:00 pm BLC Quilters

Friday, 4/1

Pastor's Sabbath

2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal
7:00 pm 100th Anniversary:
Showing Joseph & the
Amazing Technicolor
Dreamcoat

Saturday, 4/2

Sunday, 4/3

100th Anniversary Sunday

8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guests:
Rev. Dr. Kent Garner, Dr.
Mark Coffee & Dr.
Brandon Johnson (in-
person and livestream)
10:15 am Visit with
100th Anniversary Guests
10:15 am Faith
Formation
11:15 am Children's
Choir
6:00 pm Youth Group (for
grades 6-12, RSVP
requested)

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.
