

 WORSHIP

 GROW

 LIVE

 CARE

 SERVE

Weekly STAR for April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday in Lent



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY
star

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

100th Anniversary reflection on SHARING by Jim Berner

We have been ROOTED IN CHRIST, GROWN IN FAITH and SHARING GOD'S LOVE. It occurs to me that Rooted and Growing are valuable introspective traits or activities. Sharing becomes an act that is by nature a personal community activity. We develop personally by being rooted and growing in faith. Sharing opens us to the world, to others, to all of God's creation.

What does it mean to share? How do we share? Is it mechanical? Donna and I have made our offering to the church simple and automatic by using Tithe.ly. It just comes out of the account and I don't even think about it. So, did we share?

Is the act of sharing meaningful? To whom? To us? Or to the recipient? Did our sharing have value? We raised our boys with the concept that money is a good tool, beyond that, it can create a good deal of evil. Is it meaningful to God?

Where is God in our act of sharing? Do we lament over the amount of money we have given? Do we give or share that which we don't need or what is left over? Can we give and share what ever is needed, with out any consideration for amounts, value or length of time? Can we ignore the urge to be proud with ourselves for what is shared?

It is compelling to me that sharing is an act of God through us. All of the pride, amount, things are immaterial in the ACT of sharing; we are charged to SHARE GOD'S LOVE, through us to the world. For it is not the material value that I share that is of value to me. It is the ACT of that sharing that brings the value of God's family to me and me to them in relationship. Sharing God through US, right before your very eyes. Sometimes God is there at the tips of my fingers, and I don't even see it.

What does the Lord require of you? Seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

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.

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

Lessons for Wednesday, 4/6
Isaiah 43:16-21

Lessons for Sunday, 4/10
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56

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

★ **This Sunday (April 3)** Dr. Mark Coffey's organ prelude will begin a bit earlier than usual. Please arrive by 8:45 am if you wish to hear the entire prelude.

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.

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

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 or if you have questions!

Final Wednesday of Lenten Programming is April 6th

- **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

100th Anniversary News

100 YEARS

Today we welcome three anniversary guests to lead us in worship - Rev. Dr. Kent Garner to preach and preside, Dr. Mark Coffey to play the prelude and postlude, and Dr. Brandon Johnson to direct the Chancel Choir anthem. Pastor Garner's wife, Linda, and Mark Coffey's wife, Karen, are also with us. In addition, we are pleased to welcome former members and friends who have returned for this special service. Read more about our guests in today's bulletin.

Following worship, you are invited to attend a Q&A session with our guests in the sanctuary. They will reflect on their time at BLC and what they have been doing since they left. You will also have an opportunity to meet & greet each of them in person. Please plan to join us!

We have a few anniversary throws that are available for purchase. If you are interested, there will be an opportunity today in the narthex. Contact Sherry Cook at 598-3308 or scook826@rochester.rr.com if you have any questions.

Please join us next Sunday, April 10 following worship at the corner of Perrin and Church Streets for the Anniversary Tree Planting. Children from the congregation are invited to participate by helping to backfill the hole around the new tree. Many thanks to Brian Edwards for his help in the selection and planting of the tree.

SCHEDULE CHANGE: Regrettably, Rev. Theodore Schulz, our guest for April 24, has decided not to join us due to Covid concerns. Grandson of our first pastor, Rev. Henry D. Schulz, and his wife Minnie, our first organist and choir director, Pastor Schulz will be sending a taped message which will be live-streamed.

On Friday, April 29 at 7 pm in the sanctuary, we will be hosting a 100th Anniversary Prism Concert using a unique format. The musical numbers by different individuals and groups are staged such that one follows the other in a different location in the sanctuary. The moment the first selection ends, the second one begins, and so forth until the last musical performance is completed. Applause is reserved until the end. It will be a delightful evening and perfect for bringing a neighbor or friend!

Grow in Faith and Discipleship

Faith Formation in April: Pre-K to 5th grade and Confirmation (6-8th grade) will be in the Sunday School wing on **April 3, 10, and 24** at 10:15 am! Please note, there will not be Faith Formation on Easter Sunday, April 17. See the Live Section for info on the Youth Group night events on **4/3 & 5/1**.

Lenten Book Study on Sabbath... NOTE: No session on April 3 because we will welcome Anniversary Guests with a reception at that time. Join us for the last Sunday at 10:15 am on **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. Discussion on the book sections on "Wisdom" and "Consecration" for the last session on April 10.

Midweek Bible Study: 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 continue to study the Old Testament for the next few months. The Books of First and Second Samuel will be our focus. 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.

★ **Men's Breakfast...Wednesday, April 6:** 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 [Jim Berner](#).

★ **Ruth Circle** will meet at BLC on Monday, **April 11** at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing Chapter 11, (C.A.L.M.) 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.



Care for One Another

★ **BLC Card Ministry:** We have three birthdays in April! Doug Sharp celebrates on April 6th, Lee Rosenbauer on the 9th and Connie Specht on the 20th! The Resurrection of our Lord is a glorious way to let our folks know we are celebrating with them! Continued thanks for your dedication to this ministry. Don't forget to take advantage of the cards in the Narthex! Contact Donna Berner to learn more about this ministry.

★ **A Support Group for caregivers:** 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 alternating Tuesdays at 2 pm in person in the Fellowship Hall (with masks). Upcoming dates are **April 12 & 26** and **May 10 & 24**. 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.

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.

★ **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, **April 10**. 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.

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.

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 \(upstatenysynod.org\)](http://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 \(elca.org\)](http://elca.org)

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



Council News

★ **The IMF Team:** An Invitation - As we prepare for the special congregation meeting on **May 15** to approve the bylaws that will formally establish the Investment in Ministry Fund (IMF) at BLC, it's never too early to reflect on the importance of BLC in your life, the life of your family and in your community. The IMF will provide a way for members to support our neighbors beyond our walls by making gifts, bequests and other forms of current and planned giving. Your gift of any size is welcomed into the Fund. As we celebrate our 100th Anniversary, we look ahead to the NEXT 100 years to expand our vision to serve our neighbors in Christ. Individuals are invited to make a difference in the future of BLC by making a current gift or a bequest to the IMF. You may also want to consider making a gift to honor a loved one on an important occasion or anniversary.

One simple way to make a difference in the future of BLC is to remember BLC in your will. You may bequeath a specific amount or a percentage of your estate to the church. We will invite our ELCA Regional Gift Planner to come to BLC to make a presentation and answer any questions you may have.

Your estate plan is a statement about what matters most to you. With a bequest to the BLC-IMF, you can create a legacy that expresses your values, honors a loved one and supports those institutions and causes that are most important to you and your family.

For more information, please contact any member of the IMF Team: Paulette Costanza, Roger Kolker, Neil Vokes, Mark Gaul, John Panko, or John Costanza.

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/>

We Ask Your Prayers:

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

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- The safe delivery and birth of Oscar Cole Goehle on 3/28 (son of Todd and Theresa Goehle, grandson of Sandy Goehle, nephew of Carol Schrader)

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

- Elenore Bulau whose memorial service will be held on 4/7
- Ron Kendt (son-in-law of Mary Stephens and husband of Denise) who died on 2/3
- 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:

- Tom Specht who has been hospitalized with a fever
- Art Waite who is hospitalized
- Ning Rasch (friend of Chris Meetze) who will have heart surgery on 3/31
- 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
- Those who are caregivers for loved ones
- Those who are ill from Coronavirus and all who care for them

★ **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 [April long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!

Community News

★ **“Parking Lot Drive-Thru Fundraiser for Ukraine”:** **Support Ukraine** this Sunday, **April 3** from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at Atonement Lutheran Church, 1900 Westfall Road for the drive-thru lunch fundraiser. Hot dog (vegetarian options available), bottled water, chips & dessert for a suggested donation of \$5. All proceeds will go to Lutheran Disaster Response as it assists ELCA-supported work in distributing food, medicine, bedding, hygiene supplies, mental health and pastoral care to the millions of Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons in Eastern Europe. Cash donations and Checks will be gratefully received. (Please make checks payable to: Atonement Lutheran Church; Memo Line: LDR Eastern Europe Crisis Response)

★ **Service to Pray:** Trinity Episcopal Church (3450 Ridge Road West, 14626) will hold an Ecumenical Prayer service for a world in pain. Please come join with us on Monday, **April 4** at 7 pm, either in person or on zoom as we come together to pray for a world desperately in need of peace. We will be praying for refugees and all who suffer at the hands of war. [Join Zoom](#) or visit <https://trinity-greeceny.org/event-list/> for more information!

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: On **April 15**, 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

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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Calendar for April 3 – April 10

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

Sunday, 4/3

100th Anniversary Sunday

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

Monday, 4/4

Tuesday, 4/5

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

Wednesday, 4/6

8:00 am Men's Breakfast
at The Landmark
Restaurant
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, 4/7

10:30 am Memorial Service
for Elenore Bulau
6:30 pm Officers
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 836 2369 6315)
7:00 pm BLC Quilters

Friday, 4/8

Pastor's Sabbath

2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal

Saturday, 4/9

9:15 am BLC Property
Committee

Sunday, 4/10

Palm Sunday

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 100th Anniversary
Tree Planting
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.
