

 WORSHIP

 GROW

 LIVE

 CARE

 SERVE

Weekly STAR for April 24, 2022

2nd Sunday of Easter



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.

Can I Get a Witness?

The texts for today explore what it means to be a witness: the power of seeing and experiencing the resurrection firsthand. For those of us who weren't there in person to witness Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, a question persists: How do we give witness? How have we experienced Easter firsthand? What do we need to see, to touch, to hear in order to believe? The witness given in our readings today is extraordinary. "Doubting" Thomas comes up with one of the most powerful, concise creeds in all of scripture: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). Peter and the apostles affirm their belief in Christ at great risk to themselves and their families. The Spirit is at work, giving ordinary, doubting people extraordinary boldness to declare the core beliefs of Christian faith. God works in surprising ways, through unexpected people, to share the good news of Easter. With the Spirit's help, we can give witness too.

ARE YOU READY FOR WORSHIP?

Sunday at 8:55 am Worship with Communion

1. [Facebook Live](#)
2. [Watch On YouTube](#) – Subscribe to our channel
3. [Livestream on the website](#)



Worship the Living God

Lessons for Sunday, 4/24
Acts 5:27-32; John 20:19-31

Lessons for Sunday, 5/1
Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]; John 21:1-19

Worship: Our worship time each week is on Sunday at 8:55 am (both in-person and livestream). Visit [Share in Worship](#) for information on how to participate in the livestream.

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!*



Looking for something to listen to on your morning walk? Away on Sunday? Want to reflect on the sermon a second time? Check out Bethlehem's podcast - **The Word from Bethlehem Lutheran Church**. Listen to Sunday's gospel and sermon each week. Visit <https://blcfairport.org/the-word/> to listen and subscribe on Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon or Apple Podcasts.

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

100th Anniversary News

100 YEARS

Regrettably, today's scheduled guest pastor, Rev. Theodore Schulz, of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Dayton, VA, is unable to join us in worship due to COVID concerns. Rev. Schulz, is the grandson of our first full-time pastor, Rev. Henry D. Schulz, and his wife, Minnie. We thank Pastor Schulz for the photos he has shared with us, taken during his grandparents' time at BLC (1922-1934).

All are invited to attend our 100th Anniversary Prism Concert on Friday, **April 29** at 7 pm in the sanctuary. Once it begins, you will be entertained by individuals and groups performing a variety of musical numbers, one after another without interruption. Bring a friend for a wonderful evening of music!

Next Sunday, **May 1**, we will welcome Rev. Richard Hembrock as he leads us in worship. Pastor Hembrock grew up in Fairport and was baptized, confirmed, and ordained at BLC. What a treat to welcome back 'a son of Bethlehem' to participate in our anniversary celebration! Do plan to stay for a Meet & Greet with Pastor Hembrock in the sanctuary following worship for conversation and a question-and-answer session. Read more about him in next Sunday's bulletin.

On Sunday, **May 8**, we will welcome two returning guests. Rev. Jane Floy Nicholson (Associate in Ministry 1996-2003) will preach and preside at worship. Ordained in 2009, she now serves as pastor of First Lutheran Church in Chambersburg, PA. Her husband, Mark, whom she met during her time at BLC, will accompany her.

Also, on **May 8**, Karie Schroer Templeton (Director, Chancel Choir 1984-1988) will direct the Chancel Choir. Now retired after forty years of teaching in the Pittsford Schools, Karie currently oversees the choral program at the Eastman School of Music Community Music School. You are invited to join the Chancel Choir on this Sunday if you are a former choir member or if you just want to sing with the group. Contact Jim Jefferis for more information. Please join us for an informal Meet & Greet with both Pastor Nicholson and Karie in the sanctuary following worship.

Grow in Faith and Discipleship

★ **Lenten Devotion Feedback:** We hope you've enjoyed the daily reflections provided during Lent. The devotional booklet gets prepared in advance for hard copy (and now digital) distribution. Now that this year's Lenten devotion has ended, we hope you'll take a moment to offer your feedback at <https://blcfairport.org/digital-devotion-feedback/> if you have not already done so.

Faith Formation in May: Pre-K to 5th grade and Confirmation (6-8th grade) will be in the Sunday School wing on **May 1, 8, 15 & 22** at 10:15 am! See the Live Section for info on the Youth Group night event on 5/1.

Midweek Bible Study: Curious about David as King of Israel? Join midweek Bible Study starting on as we continue to read 2 Samuel. No prior experience necessary! 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.

Live Our Faith in Daily Life

★ **Men's Breakfast...Wednesday, May 4:** 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 [Wayne Westcott](#).

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 [Calendar of Events](#) listing for **May 1**. Please contact Bethany Trippi with any questions.

Care for One Another

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 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.

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, **May 10** 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.

The Mission Focus for the season of Easter is World Hunger! Hungering for more information?

- Visit <https://blcfairport.org/world-hunger-appeal/> to view and print monthly calendars with links to recipes. There are also copies available in the Narthex, or you can contact the church office to have one mailed!
- Be a Hunger Activist! Sign up now at [M&SC: BLC Hunger Activists \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.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 at rbowsend@rochester.rr.com

Perinton Food Shelf: Feeding the hungry has always been a focus of the Lutheran church. BLC has shelves outside the youth room on the lower level to collect food for delivery to the Distribution Center. There is a printed list of their most needed items there. You can also view their most updated lists at <https://perintonfoodshelf.org/>. Please call [585-425-7410](tel:585-425-7410) or email contactus@perintonfoodshelf.org for information.

Council News

Sharing Our Blessings Update: Here's an update from the Sharing Our Blessing team. The team continues to work through the process of identifying one or more organizations that will help us fulfill our goals of helping our community and engaging our congregation. To that end the team has developed a list of 12 – 15 area non-profits to whom we will send a grant application to be completed and returned to BLC over the next month. The potential participants include some organizations that we already know through the Missions & Social Concerns Committee, some that were brought to the team's attention in our congregational survey and others in the local community.

The grant application that we will use is a simple four-page document that will allow the team to understand how the organization would use BLC's financial resources to improve the lives of those in our community and will answer some basic questions about the objectives, people, and resources of the potential grantee. One of the most important things we want to understand will be how a given applicant aligns with the mission categories that are the most important to the people of BLC. The team has one ask for those in the BLC community that would like to help with our effort. We are looking for volunteers to be a part of the grant evaluation and selection process. If you have the tolerance to read through the grant response documents (we estimate 5-9 pages each), evaluate them using criteria that the team has come up with, and engage in group discussion and decision-making process we would love to have your help. We expect this will be done in a series of meeting during the month of May, with the objective of having a recommendation to Council in July. If you are interested or have questions send me an email: Alan.Sleeman@blcfairport.org

Sharing Our Blessings Team

Cathy Gottermeier, Alli O'Malley, Julie Owen, Lisa Rosenbauer, Alan Sleeman, Pr. Amy Walter-Peterson

Special Congregational Meeting - Bethlehem will hold a **Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 15 at 10:15 am** (following worship) for the purpose of approving changes to the Bylaws allowing for the creation of an Investment in Ministry Fund (IMF). This meeting will be held in person and only those present may vote. According to Bethlehem's Constitution, changes to the Bylaws require a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting. Copies of the proposed Bylaws are available by contacting the church office. To learn more about these proposed Bylaws, plan to attend one of the upcoming informational sessions hosted by the IMF Team (below).

The BLC Investment in Ministries Team will be hosting four Q&A Sessions to prepare for the upcoming Special Congregational meeting on Sunday, **May 15** when the congregation will vote on adopting Bylaws to formally establish the Investment in Ministries Fund for BLC. We want you to be well-informed to make this important decision that will impact the future of BLC for years to come. For more information, visit <https://blcfairport.org/imf-info/> and plan to join one of these sessions:

- Sunday, **April 24** – In person session after worship in the Sanctuary.
- Monday, **May 2** – Virtual session at 7:00 PM (Click the Calendar of Events to join)
- Wednesday, **May 4** – In person at church after Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.
- Monday, **May 9** – Virtual session at 7:00 PM (Click the Calendar of Events to join)

★ Ways to Give to IMF:

If the Bylaws are approved by the congregation at the special meeting on **May 15th**, we will officially launch the Investment in Ministries Campaign. There are many ways for you to give to the Investment in Ministries Fund, many of which may offer significant tax benefits. Here are some of the options to consider*:

- Donate cash, check, debit or credit card,
- Donate appreciated securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds)
- Name Bethlehem Lutheran Church Investment in Ministries Fund (BLC IMF) as a beneficiary in your will or estate plan
- Name BLC IMF as a beneficiary of your retirement benefits
- Name BLC IMF as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy
- Name BLC-IMF as a beneficiary of your savings account (POD - Payable on Death)
- Name BLC-IMF as a beneficiary of your brokerage account or mutual funds (TOD - Transfer on Death)
- Establish a Life Income Plan (Charitable Remainder Unitrust or Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust)

If you would like to discuss your options with a trained professional, we'd be happy to connect you with our ELCA Regional Gift Planner.

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

**Remember, if a person has no will or trust, state law determines who inherits all property at death. State laws do not recognize any church or other charity as a beneficiary unless the individual specifically includes preferred institutions or individuals in a legally valid will, beneficiary designation, or other form of assignment,*

**This article is not intended to be tax or legal advice and should not be relied on as such. We encourage you to consult with your legal and tax counsel to understand the implications of a specific charitable gift.*

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:

- Lee (Uncle of Chris Meetze) who died on 4/21
- Jim Stalker (cousin of Howard Sharp) who died on 4/13

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Jim & Ricki Schaefer
- Nicole (friend of Ricki Schaefer)
- Susan (friend of Ricki Schaefer)
- Tom Rielly (father of Lisa Meetze) who has entered palliative care
- MaryJane Burke who is recovering from cataract surgery on 4/19
- Richard Strasser who is recovering from heart surgery on 4/15
- George Feth recovering at home following a recent fall
- 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 [April long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!

Community News

Day of Caring - May 19, 2022! Day of Caring matches thousands of volunteers - all on one day - with local nonprofit agencies who have identified needs such as painting, raking, cleaning up parks, planting community gardens, etc. For the first time in its 36-year history, Day of Caring will take place across Monroe, Livingston, Genesee, Wyoming, Wayne, and Ontario County on the same day. More than 300 projects have already been registered by over 150 nonprofits! Day of Caring is powered by the United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes. Learn more: <https://unitedwayroclx.org/news-events/day-of-caring/>

Key Dates:

- April 30, 2022 - Nonprofit Need Registration Closes
- May 12, 2022 - Volunteer Registration Closes
- May 19, 2022 - Day of Caring!

Are you, or people you know, going hungry? If you are in need of emergency food supplies and live in the 14450 zip code, dial 585-425-7410. A volunteer will call you back within 24 hours during weekdays between 9AM and 5PM. The volunteer will ask several general questions concerning your family size, your income and, of course, your name and home address. If you qualify for emergency food supplies, a week's supply of food (based on your household's size) will be packaged and scheduled for you to pick up at the food shelf in Fairport. Directions and times will be provided. **If you do not live in the 14450 zip code, dial 211 or 1-877-356-9211.** They will provide you with information on an emergency food provider near you. They will ask you for your zip code to identify organizations serving your neighborhood and/or region.

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 April 24 – May 1

(Last updated on 4/20/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 4/24

8:55 am Worship with
Communion (in-
person and livestream)
10:15 am Faith
Formation
10:15 am BLC Investment
in Ministries Fund (IMF)
Q&A
No Children's Choir

Monday, 4/25

Tuesday, 4/26

2:00 pm Support Group for
Caregivers
6:30 pm Re-Opening Team
Meeting
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 814 4024 3748)
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting

Wednesday, 4/27

9:30 am Bible Study –
(in-person or
[Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 943 3691 2942)
4:15 pm Children's Choir
6:00 pm Chancel Bells
6:15 pm Folk Group
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, 4/28

4:00 pm Share Our
Blessings Meeting
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 855 1314 2393)
6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop
Meeting

Friday, 4/29

Pastor's Sabbath
2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal
7:00 pm 100th Anniversary
Prism Concert

Saturday, 4/30

Sunday, 5/1

100th Anniversary Sunday
8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guests:
Rev. Richard Hembrook
(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)

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.
