



Sunday, May 1, 2022

"Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long and how deep his love is."

Ephesians 3:17b-18 (NLT)



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org
The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

Welcome!

We are so glad to have you share in worship at Bethlehem today. If you are visiting, please introduce yourself to one of the pastors – they would love to greet you personally! At this time, we ask all worshipers to wear masks in worship.

Today's service will be recorded and live-streamed. Our camera operators take care to focus on worship leaders and don't regularly film worshipers. In the movement of the service, glimpses of people may occur. Please speak with a pastor if you have concerns.

Communicate with us: Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

Children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship. We have designated space within the sanctuary (underneath the window of Jesus, the Good Shepherd) that is reserved for families who may need additional space for strollers or carriers for children who cannot yet wear masks. If there is a way we can make worship a more hospitable environment for your family, please speak to a pastor or leave a comment through our website (see above).

Hearing assistance: Our sound system is equipped with personal hearing loop devices. Please ask an usher for a loop device.

Holy Communion: All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please speak with one of our pastors.) Please see additional notes about the Sacrament in the service portion of the bulletin.

Our Perrin Street entrance is accessible. Please ask an usher or greeter for help if you need assistance operating the lift.

Please silence your cell phones: As a courtesy to others, we ask that you please silence your cell phones during worship.

Worship Leaders at BLC

As Lutheran Christians, **we believe that worship is not a passive experience, watching and listening to the Pastor. Worship is the work of the people – that's what liturgy means!** We all have a job to do in worship: lifting our voice in prayer and song, bowing our heads in prayer, opening our ears to hear the Word, and extending our hands to receive the Sacrament. It also takes many people to support the work of worship, both serving publicly and behind-the-scenes. **Each Sunday you're invited to visit the table in the Narthex and put your name next to the role you want and grab the corresponding bulletin.**

Want to learn more about a specific worship role or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Fill out the survey on the table in the narthex and place it in the basket. We will follow up with you.

Sunday, May 1, 2022 ~ *Third Sunday of Easter*

Prelude:

Chorale Fughetta on *O FILII ET FILIAE*

setting: James F. Konkel

Each anniversary Sunday celebration is an opportunity to remember the ways that our worship is rooted in the past, even as we are growing together and sharing in faith today. For the season of Easter, we are returning to a familiar liturgical setting (#1 from the Lutheran Book of Worship published in 1978). This setting continues to shape our faith today and remains as setting 3 in our current ELW hymnal. Today's worship also features a number of hymns that are listed as "BLC Favorites" – those hymns BLC worshipers counted among your favorites when asked in spring of 2020.

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Call to Worship:

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Over powers and principalities, over all who determine, control, govern or finance the affairs of humankind,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Of the poor, of the broken, of the sinned against and the sinner,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Above the Church, beyond our most excellent theologies and in the quiet corners of our hearts,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Amen

(A favorite hymn of BLC)

Stanzas 1. All

2. Choir

3. All

4. Choir

5. All

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise:

Refrain: All

Stanzas 1. All

2. Group I – seated on the right side (organ)

3. Group II – seated on the left side (Good Shepherd window)

4. All

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

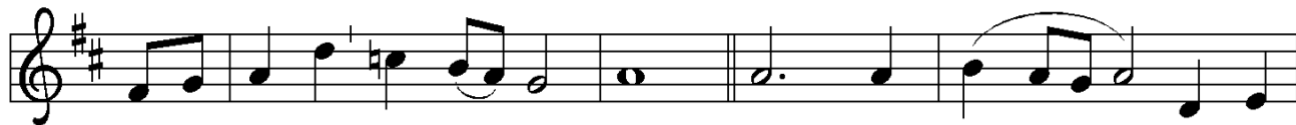


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Jim Berner

Reading: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

¹Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a

vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”]

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:



The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 21:1-19

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

¹After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went

out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

(A favorite hymn of Rev. Hembrock)

The Prayers of the People:

Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

#1 Holy One of new beginnings, fill us with new life. Send us into the world as you sent your apostles Philip and James, to invite people to come and see your wondrous acts in Christ. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

#2 Revive ecosystems along coastlands that have been devastated by natural forces and human negligence. Reestablish plant and animal life that purifies air and water and that feeds humans and other living creatures. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

#3 Accompany laborers who get little rest from their work. Give them hope when they struggle to produce what they need. Give all who labor fair treatment and just wages. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Join our voices with angels, creatures, and all the saints in praising Christ and bestowing upon him all blessing and honor and glory. We give thanks for the community of First Baptist Church of Fairport whose closing worship service takes place today. Gather us to be your people in this place and for the sake of the world. We especially pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem: David & Patty (Michael & Nathan), Catherine, David & Susan, Bob & Joyce, and Bill & Jill (Ellie & Will). God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Restore all people who cry to you for help. Turn their mourning into dancing, clothe them with joy, and put a testimony of healing and praise on their lips. We pray especially for those we name before you now:

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

- William (father of Julie) who died on 4/27
- Chris (former BLC member) who died on 4/25
- Lee (Uncle of Chris) who died on 4/21
- Jim (cousin of Howard) who died on 4/13

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Valerie (cousin of Julie) who is hospitalized and in a coma following a cardiac arrest
- Martha who is recovering from knee replacement surgery on 4/1
- Morey who is hospitalized after a fall on 4/25
- LeRoy (father of Sue) who is recovering from anticipated back surgery on 4/26
- Tom (father of Lisa) who has entered palliative care and is hospitalized after a recent fall
- Donna (friend of Chris) who has breast cancer and is beginning chemo
- Ning (friend of Chris) who is permanently blind due to a complication following heart surgery
- Those who are caregivers for loved ones
- Those who are ill from Coronavirus and all who care for them

Hear also these prayers we raise to you in our hearts or on our voice.

Silence for people to offer their prayers

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

WE SHARE GOD'S MEAL:

The Peace:

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet those with whom you worship physically with a sign of peace. At home, extend the peace of Christ through the comments section or text to those who are at a distance.

Offering

Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. We celebrate the opportunity to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources.

If you would like to make a one-time gift electronically, scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page. For recurring gifts, download the Tithe.ly app. Checks may also be mailed to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450. Those worshipping in person may leave their offerings in the basket in the narthex.



Whatever form your offering takes, we give thanks to God for you and your generosity.

Offering of Music:

God's Son Has Made Me Free

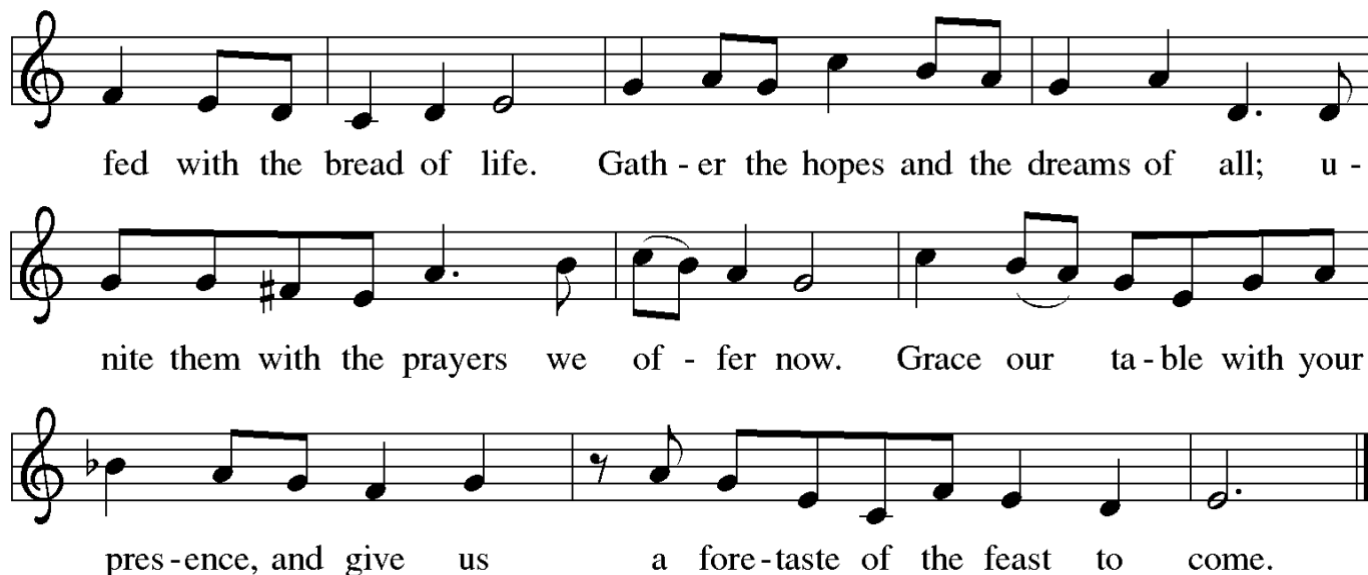
words: H.A. Brorson
music: Edvard Grieg
arr. Oscar R. Overby

The Chancel Choir (Jim Jefferis, director)

Offertory:	Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful	ELW 182
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Musical notation for the offertory song. It consists of two staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution:

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Invitation to Communion:

The risen Christ dwells with us here.

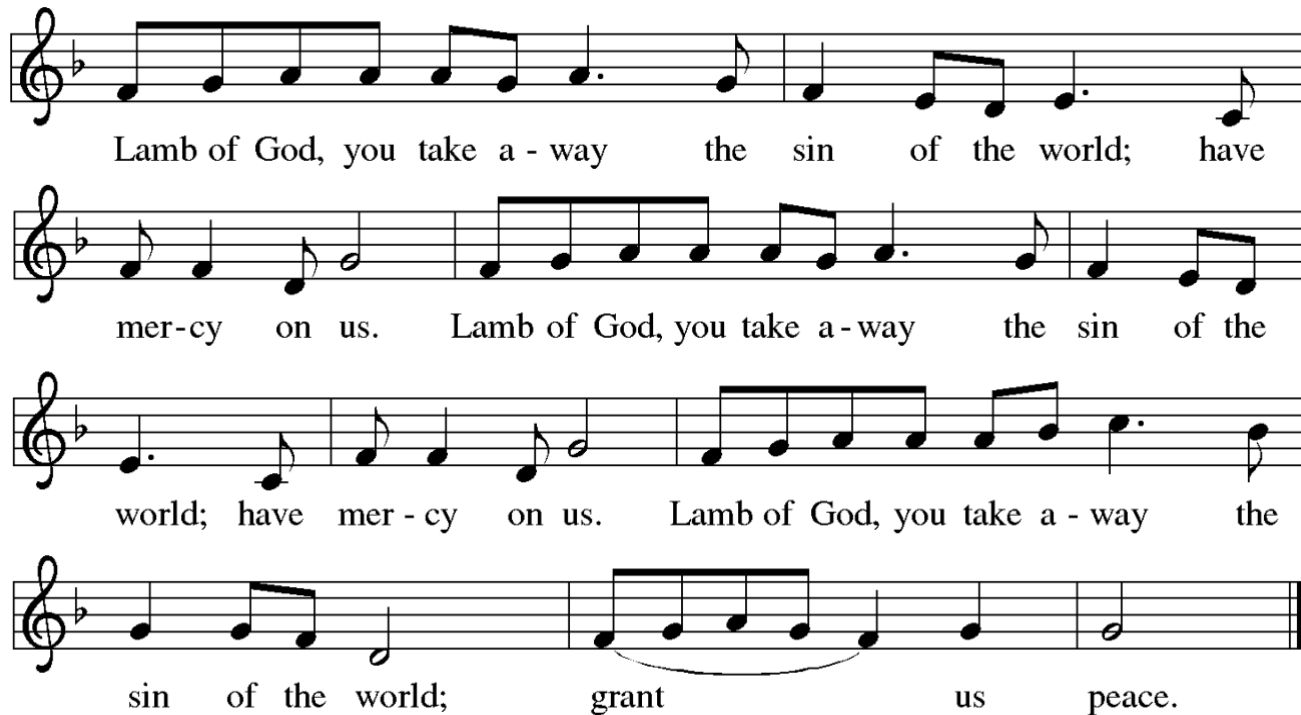
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

Thanks be to God.

Distribution of Communion:

Please come forward at the direction of the worship leaders. All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please contact one of the Pastors.) Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please indicate your need to the pastor or communion assistant. You may lower your mask as you receive communion. If you worship through the Livestream and wish to receive communion, please reach out to one of the pastors.

The Communion:



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymn:

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW 484, stanzas 1, 2, 5

(A favorite hymn of BLC)

Communion Hymn:

He Lives (I Serve a Risen Savior)

Stanzas 1. Cantors

2. All

3. All

(assisted by: Kathy Moragne, Sarah Morrisette, Robert Stock, Dave Wideman)

Table Blessing:

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen

WE LEAVE TO SERVE:

Sending Hymn:	Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!	ELW 385
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Benediction:

May the risen Christ amaze us, open us to receive new life, and send us to share all that we have seen and heard with the blessing of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Dismissal:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Festival Alleluia

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
setting: Dan Miller

The quilts in the narthex were made by BLC Quilters and will be donated to Linus Blankets for distribution through hospitals and various agencies.

Thank you to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! If you would like to learn more about participating in a worship role, please speak to one of the co-pastors or contact the church office.

Thank you to Pastor Richard Hembrock for his participation in our anniversary celebration by leading us in worship this morning. A “son of Bethlehem,” born in Fairport and baptized, confirmed, and ordained at BLC, his presence truly reminds us that we are connected to each other and to BLC even though we may be separated by time and distance. Be sure to join us for an informal Meet & Greet with Pastor Hembrock in the sanctuary following worship. Read more about him in today’s bulletin.

Happening today (5/1):

100th Anniversary Sunday!

- 8:55 am Worship with Communion (in- person and livestream)
- 10:15 am 100th Anniversary Q&A and conversation with guest (in-person and livestream)
- 10:15 am Faith Formation
 - pre-K to 5th grade gathers in the Sunday School Wing
 - 6th-8th grade gathers in the Confirmation room
- 11:15 am Children's Choir
- 6:00 pm Youth Group (for grades 6-12, RSVP requested)

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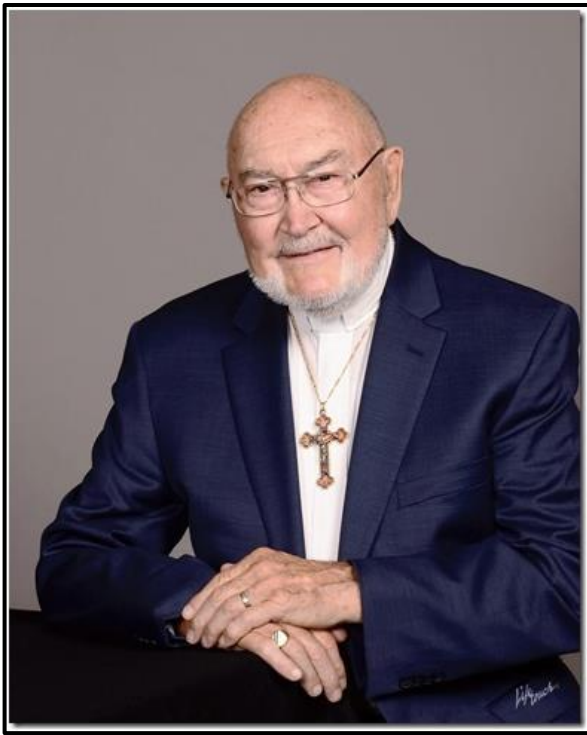
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Chaplain (Col) Richard G. Hembrock, US Army, ret.

Pastor Hembrock was born in Fairport, NY, the only son in a family of five children. He was both baptized and confirmed at BLC. He graduated from Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary, both located in Columbus, OH. His ordination into the Lutheran ministry on June 7, 1959, also took place at BLC. His first call was to a three-point parish in and around Cat Spring, Texas in 1959.

In 1962, Pastor Hembrock joined the US Army as a Lutheran Chaplain, with his first tour at Fort Hood, TX. While there, he and Marilyn Goessler were married at her home church, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Sandy Hill, TX, in 1964. They have two children, Sara Lynn Toscano, married to Timothy, of Baltimore, MD, and Joel Hembrock, married to Michele, of Hilliard, FL. They also have four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

He served two tours of duty in Viet Nam, followed by 3½ years in Germany, during which time he received his Master's Degree in Secondary Education from Boston University. That was followed by one year at Ft. Hamilton, NY, two years at Ft. Lawton, Seattle WA, and finally two years at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Pastor Hembrock then spent 12 years in the active reserves, retiring as Command Chaplain of the 310th TAACOM at Ft. Belvoir, VA. During this time, he was chaplain at the National Lutheran Home, interim chaplain at Ft. Detrick MD, and pastor of the Sharpsburg Parish (Mt. Zion, Holy Trinity, and Salem). Since his retirement from Sharpsburg Parish in 1994, he has served as interim pastor at Lutheran churches in Leitersburg, Smithsburg,

Feagaville, Keysville, Sharpsburg, Mount Union, and Funkstown. He also worked as a chaplain at Washington County and Meritus Hospitals in Hagerstown, MD.

Pastor Hembrock has realized that one does not retire from the call - he just finds many ways to continue to serve the Lord in answer to that call. He and Marilyn are currently active members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Smithsburg, MD, where he sings in the choir, teaches Sunday School, and participates in Men's Group and Prayer Team. He also serves the community by officiating at funerals and weddings when needed. On October 6, 2019, Trinity and the Delaware-Maryland Synod honored him with a 60th anniversary celebration of his ordination, with friends from across the United States joining the celebration, including the pastor who married them in 1964. Marilyn is currently working on preparations for the 200th anniversary celebration of the founding of Trinity. She will be joining her husband when he comes to lead worship during our anniversary celebration. In his spare time, Pastor Hembrock serves as chaplain and honor guard for Morris Frock Post 42, The American Legion, a spiritual director for Via de Cristo, and works on his small farm. He is president of the Joint Veterans Council, which dedicated a new Vietnam War Monument on Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29, 2019. He is President of the Smithsburg Lions Club and treasurer of two other organizations. He enjoys travelling, having driven to Alaska on two of his six visits there, as well as numerous cross-country trips, and throughout Europe. He loves being outdoors, whether working, hunting, fishing, or playing a round of golf.

Calendar for May 1 – May 8

(Last updated on 4/27/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 5/1

100th Anniversary Sunday

8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guests:
Rev. Richard Hembrock
(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, 5/2

7:00 pm 100th Anniversary
Planning Committee
Meeting ([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 851 0778 6445)
7:00 pm Virtual BLC
Investment in Ministries
Fund (IMF) Q&A
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 872 7338 5832)

Tuesday, 5/3

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting

Wednesday, 5/4

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)
11:15 am BLC Investment
in Ministries Fund (IMF)
Q&A (in-person)
6:00 pm Chancel Bells
6:15 pm Folk Group
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, 5/5

7:00 pm BLC Quilters

Friday, 5/6

Pastor's Sabbath

2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal

Saturday, 5/7

2:00 pm Troop 208 Eagle
Court of Honor

Sunday, 5/8

100th Anniversary Sunday

8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guests:
Rev. Jane Floy Nicholson
& Karie Schroer
Templeton (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
11:45 am 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.

100th Anniversary Reflection by Toni Thompson

In Luke 3:11, John the Baptist tells us, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." Sharing is an instinctive reflex in our human psyche. When we see another in need, we automatically and immediately search our closets or our pantries to see what we can give to someone who really needs help. A great example is how the community of Perinton responded to the terrible fire at the Pines of Perinton which left sixty-five people homeless. Before some of us could react to the disaster, the community had already fulfilled all material needs. Across the nation, every time there is a disaster – tornado, flood, fire – there is a generous outpouring of goods and money to help people we don't even know get back on their feet and restore their lives.

Children share naturally – both tangible items as well as their affection. It is so touching to see little kids greet each other with a hug and with delight. When my godson, Max, as a very little boy, he was fascinated with minerals and stones. One time he discovered a little clear crystal which really intrigued him, but he immediately said, "Here, Aunt Toni. This is for you." I still treasure that little crystal in my curio cabinet as a reminder of his generosity of spirit.

Just as important as sharing our material goods and our treasure is sharing in each other's joys and sorrows. When someone becomes engaged and marries, or has a baby, or graduates from school, we rejoice with each other. Likewise, when someone falls ill, or suffers a loss, we are there with compassion and sympathy and encouragement. This, too, is a natural human response to someone else's situation.

We are graced with the impulse to share by the Holy Spirit which binds us together in community. In the hymn "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" the words of the third stanza are,

"We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear."