



WORSHIP



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CARE



SERVE

Weekly STAR for May 8, 2022

4th 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.

The Searching Sheep

Messages and information today are texted, tweeted, broadcast, e-mailed, phoned, lectured, announced, packaged, and repackaged. The means and avenues for communication are many. Yet when it comes to the person known as Jesus of Nazareth we are often left standing in the place of the Jewish people who gathered around Jesus at that portico (John 10:22-23). We long to know, Who are you, Jesus? and perhaps want to probe, What are you really about? Of course the qualification is for him to "tell us plainly" (John 10:24). As the church we have grown accustomed to the idea of Jesus seeking out the lost sheep and bringing them safely home—of knowing the sheep intimately by name. Today's texts are rich in reframing who is searching for whom. Who is seeking after Jesus, and to what does that seeking lead? Still, will we be satisfied with any answer? The faith of Tabitha and the miracle-working Peter, the vision of saints and mythical beasts, and even Jesus' works point to one who is in and of God. Yet we wonder if it can't be spelled out for us more clearly. In this season of proclaiming a Christ who breaks the powers of death and whose realm is one of glory, we open ourselves to questions of exactly who this Jesus is—and see answers coming to life in story, miracles, and testimony. Today is an opportunity for us in weakness and glory, in doubt and in faith, in simplicity and awe to seek and embrace the one who is already in our midst.

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, 5/8

Acts 9:36-43; John 10:22-30

Lessons for Sunday, 5/15

Acts 11:1-18; John 13:31-35

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:** 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!*

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

Pentecost Geraniums: Order today! Pentecost Flower Orders: You are invited to order red geraniums (\$6.25 per plant) to help decorate our Sanctuary for Pentecost (**June 5**). Click [here](#) or find a paper order form in the Narthex. Place your order with payment in the offering plate or the Church Office mailbox in the upstairs hallway. Forms are due on or before **May 12!**



Take The Word from Bethlehem Lutheran Church with you each week. Listen to Sunday's gospel and sermon wherever you are during the week. Visit <https://blcfairport.org/the-word/> to listen or subscribe on Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon or Apple Podcasts. *The Word from Bethlehem Lutheran Church* is a great way to reflect on a sermon a second time (we hear people like to do that sometimes!) or to ground yourself if you were away on Sunday morning. If you need help subscribing, please reach out to one of the pastors.

100th Anniversary News

100 YEARS

Last Sunday, it was a pleasure to welcome Rev. Richard Hembrock as our guest pastor. He has the distinction of being the first BLC member to be ordained. Pastor Hoffman noted that he has been associated with Bethlehem for 86 years, thereby making him 'living history in our midst.' Our thanks to Pastor Hembrock and his wife, Marilyn, for bringing the Word to us.

Today, we welcome anniversary guest Rev. Jane Floy Nicholson (Associate in Ministry 1996-2003) to the pulpit. Pastor Nicholson, will be traveling from her home church in Chambersburg, PA with her husband, Mark, whom she met and married at Bethlehem. In addition, Karie Schroer Templeton (Director, Chancel Choir 1984-1988), will also be with us to direct the Chancel Choir.

Currently, Karie oversees the choral program at the Eastman School of Music Community Music School. Following worship, there will be an informal Meet & Greet in the sanctuary with both Pastor Nicholson and Karie. Please plan to join us as we welcome them back to BLC and thank them for sharing their gifts.

Next Sunday on May 15, immediately following worship, we ask the entire congregation to gather on the front steps for a congregational photo marking our 100th Anniversary. A camera-equipped drone will take the photo. In case of inclement weather, we will take a conventional photo in the sanctuary. (No drone!) The photo shoot will not take long, allowing enough time to also attend the special congregational meeting to vote on the IMF Bylaws. We hope everyone will participate!

Have you seen the beautiful quilts displayed in the narthex? The talented BLC Quilters, led by GerryAnn Westcott, finished over 80 quilts this past year. Some will be sent to Lutheran World Relief and the others are distributed by a local LINUS organization to those in need, such as in hospitals and nursing homes. Do take some time to look at their beautiful work!

Looking for a handy collection of memories from our BLC 100 Anniversary celebration? You can order an Anniversary DVD, free of charge, by clicking on <https://blcfairport.org/100th-anniversary-dvd/>. Among the things included are Pastor Garner's April 3 sermon, selected musical performances, and additional multimedia events. To receive a copy, we ask you to place your order now. Only the exact number of DVDs ordered will be made; they will be available in September. If you have any questions, contact Donna Berner at 585-314-5732. This DVD will serve as a wonderful keepsake as you reflect back on the many events that marked our celebration in 2021-2022.



Grow in Faith and Discipleship

Faith Formation in May: Pre-K to 5th grade and Confirmation (6-8th grade) will be in the Sunday School wing on **May 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

★ **Ruth Circle** will meet at BLC on Monday, **May 9** at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be choosing a new book for discussion when Ruth Circle meetings resume in September. All are welcome to join us for fellowship and refreshments. Any questions call Ruth Kurtz at 388-2608 or e-mail ruthkurtz22@gmail.com

Save the dates for a BLC/LYO Campout: Get your camping gear ready, BLC LYO/Confirmation students are going camping! Please keep the weekend of **July 15 - 17** open for a fun fill day or two with your BLC peers. Further details to come soon.



Care for One Another

★ **Thank you!** Dear BLC - Your kindness is appreciated so much. Thank you. I will remember you always. Natalia (a Pines resident assisted after the recent fire).

BLC Card Ministry: Linnea Donahower celebrates a May birthday on the 23rd! 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 **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://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

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, **May 8**. 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.



Council News

★ You Are Invited - Legacy Presentation on *Sunday, June 5*

What plans do you have for your legacy? What do you want to leave to your family? What do you want to give to your church? What is the best way to give to ministries you love? Our church has a resource available for you as you explore these questions. Ryan Ebner, Gift Planner from the ELCA Foundation serves our congregation and our Synod. Ryan wants to help families explore their passions to create a charitable estate plan that leaves a legacy including an inheritance for family as well as supporting the ministries and charities that mean the most to you. **Ryan will be in attendance for our worship services on Sunday, June 5.** He will give a brief Temple Talk prior to worship and be giving a brief informative workshop after service. Come prepared with your questions and to schedule a no obligation, confidential appointment. You may begin discussion with Ryan at any time. Contact Ryan at 814-823-3285 or e-mail at ryan.ebner@elca.org

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).

★ **IMF: You Have Questions . . . We Have Answers!** As you know, the special congregational meeting will take place on May 15 and we will be asking each of you to prayerfully consider your vote on a plan that will have far-reaching implications in our community and the world. You will be asked to vote to approve the Bylaws to establish the Investment in Ministries Fund, an endowment fund of BLC that will fund ministries over-and-above those supported by our annual budget. We want you to have all the information you need to make an informed decision. There will be one remaining Question and Answer sessions on Monday, **May 9** at 7:00 pm on Zoom. We will present a brief introduction followed by an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. For more information, visit <https://blcfairport.org/imf-info/> or 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:

- Valerie Nixon (cousin of Julie Stolze) who died on 5/2
- Tom Rielly (father of Lisa Meetze) who died on 4/29
- William (father of Julie Owen) who died on 4/27
- Chris Heim (former BLC member) who died on 4/25

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Jim Cook who was hospitalized following a TIA this week
- Martha Grasberger who is recovering from knee replacement surgery on 4/1
- Morey Rasbeck who is recovering at home
- Donna Wells (friend of Chris Meetze) who has breast cancer and is beginning chemo
- Ning Rasch (friend of Chris Meetze) 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

Click here to view and print the [May long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!

Community News

Open Door Mission's 22nd Annual Golf Classic: This event is being held on Monday, May 23, 2022 at Midvale Country Club to help support vital programs and services that ultimately restore hope and transform lives in our community. 9 am registration, 10 am grazing breakfast, 12 pm Shot Gun Start (scramble format) Register at <https://birdease.com/ODM2020GolfClassic2022>

Learn more about the work of the ELCA beyond our walls by reading our [Bishop's Spring Report to the Upstate New York Synod](#). In addition, like the Synod's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/upstatenysynod>) to view 9@9 devotions and reflections Monday through Thursday.

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:

- May 12, 2022 - Volunteer Registration Closes
- May 19, 2022 - Day of Caring!

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

Calendar for May 8 – May 15

(Last updated on 5/4/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

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)

Monday, 5/9

1:00 pm Ruth Circle

7:00 pm Virtual BLC

Investment in Ministries
Fund (IMF) Q&A
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 872 7338 5832)

Tuesday, 5/10

2:00 pm Support Group for
Caregivers

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

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting

Wednesday, 5/11

9:30 am Bible Study –
(in-person or
[Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 943 3691 2942)

6:00 pm Chancel Bells

6:15 pm Folk Group
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, 5/12

6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop
Meeting

6:30 pm BLC Officers
Meeting

Friday, 5/13

Pastor's Sabbath

2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal

Saturday, 5/14

9:15 am Property
Committee

Sunday, 5/15

8:55 am Worship with
Communion with 100th
Anniversary
congregational photo

10:15 am Special
Congregational Meeting
(in-person)

10:15 am Faith
Formation

11:15 am Children's
Choir

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.
