



Lent 2023

Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Fairport, NY

This Lent, we will explore the role of questions, both in scripture and in our own conversations with God. Questions can be used in many ways, including to express confusion, to convey longings of the heart, and even to draw closer to God. Join us in worship on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings as we delve into readings that highlight back-and-forth conversations with God, conversations full of questions.

Ash Wednesday, February 22 (Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21)

Noon (in-person only) and **7 pm** - (in-person and livestreamed) – ***Unspoken Questions*** - Honest confession of our sin and our mortality mark the start of Lent and our observance of Ash Wednesday. Gather in the Sanctuary for a simple liturgy with ashes and Holy Communion or tune in virtually to the Livestream on Facebook and YouTube (7 pm only).

Sunday Worship, in-person and livestreamed at 8:55 am

February 26 – ***Questions that Divide, Questions that Bond*** – Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 and Matthew 4:1-11

March 5 – ***Simple Questions*** – Psalm 121 and John 3:1-17

March 12 – ***Questions for the Curious*** – Romans 5:1-11 and John 4:5-42

March 19 – ***Questions that Change, Questions that Change You*** – Ephesians 5:8-14 and John 9:1-41

March 26 – ***Question as Kick: Limit Questions*** – Psalm 130; John 11:1-45

Going Deeper, Sundays in-person

A lot of times, when people encounter a big question in their life of faith, it can feel isolating. Forbidden, even. Do-not-go-there territory. But what if faith requires us to ask questions? What if we need questions to survive and grow as a community of faith? You want to go there, don't you? You want to believe dialogue with God, relationship with God, requires questions. Well, guess what? You're in good company.

Each week we'll gather to reflect on ***your*** questions . . . questions about the Sunday text, questions about faith, questions about worship, questions that reflect on our life together. We will have a question jar in the Narthex and online at <https://blcfairport.org/ask/> and we invite ***all*** members of the Bethlehem community to share their questions. Each week we'll spend time in answering and reflecting on these questions. Grab a cup of coffee and share in conversation with the pastors beginning at 10:15 am on Sundays, February 26 through March 26.

Wednesdays in Lent – beginning March 1

6 pm – Simple Supper

Before each of the Wednesday services, we will host a Simple Supper of soup and bread in the Fellowship Hall. Bring some soup or bread to share – or just show up! Check the Star for full details.

7 pm – Holden Evening Prayer, in person and livestreamed

Share in a beloved liturgy as we worship, pray, and reflect on a small portion of the previous Sunday's text in community.

Ready for Worship? Each Wednesday and Saturday during Lent, we share information like the bulletin and livestream link for our upcoming worship. If you are not currently receiving our Ready for Worship emails, please sign-up at <https://blcfairport.org/> or contact office@blcfairport.org.

Ask – Daily Lenten Devotional

Extend your Lenten practice with a daily devotion this year delivered to your inbox. Barn Geese Worship produced this year's devotion called "Ask" and it connects with our worship theme this Lenten season. Each day of the devotional offers multiple ways to engage questions - *reading* a short scripture passage, *reflecting* on a question, *prayer* in the form of a question from you to God, and a *practice* activity. Sign up to receive it in your daily email throughout Lent at <https://blcfairport.org/lenten-devotions/> or pick up a printed copy in the Narthex beginning Sunday, February 19th. If your household creates a Question Jar as suggested in the devotional, be sure to share those questions with us in the question jar in the Narthex or at <https://blcfairport.org/ask/>.

Bethlehem Between Sundays

Each Monday, we send a weekly with resources and tidbits – for further reflection, ways to put your faith into action, faith practices and more to sustain you *between Sundays*. We'll also include links to Sunday worship in case you missed it and the podcast to listen to Sunday's sermon!

The Word Podcast – 1 year old!

Our Pastors have brought the Word from Sunday's gospel and sermon to you on Mondays in podcast form for a whole year! Haven't heard it yet? Listen on the BLC website at <https://blcfairport.org/the-word/> or subscribe wherever you listen to podcasts (iTunes, Google, Spotify).

Easter Flowers & Alternate Giving Opportunity

Donate Easter flowers or make a donation to support Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) – or both! During Epiphany, BLC hosted Colleen Knauf, founder of Saints Place, and Pastor Eric Shafer, the pastor-in-residence for LIRS. Both helped us learn more about the experience of refugees and how we can help our neighbors in need. Learn more about LIRS at lirs.org. To donate to LIRS or order Easter flowers, visit <https://blcfairport.org/easter-flower-alternate-giving/>. Flower orders are due by March 25.

Virtual worship is available in real time through livestream on the BLC Facebook page, YouTube channel, and can also be found on the BLC website shortly after each service ends.

Holy Week/Easter Sunday Worship Schedule

Check out the weekly Star and Ready for Worship emails for more information about Holy Week worship.

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2 at 8:55 am

Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 7 pm

Good Friday, April 7 at 7 pm

Easter Sunday, April 9 at 8:55 am