



MATTHEW 9:18
*Come and
lay your hand on her,
and she
will live*

*Sunday, June 11, 2023
2nd Sunday after Pentecost*



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

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Lyric Prelude Frédéric Chopin / arr. Franklin Ritter
incorporating Étude in E Minor, op. 25, no. 5

Michael Koncilja, guest organist/pianist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord’s day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God’s mercy for the world.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

As you came as God’s breath blowing at the birth of creation

Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with life.

As you came as a force driving Jesus into the wilderness

Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with clarity.

As you came as flames compelling the disciples to preach and proclaim

Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with power.

As you came as advocate, as friend, as teacher, as guide

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

As you have come from the beginning of creation

Come to us this day!

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Reveal to us your presence.

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

Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
 ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
 Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
 yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships. For Abraham and for us, a right relationship with God involves trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled because God makes the dead alive and calls into existence what otherwise does not exist.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life.

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. ²³When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread throughout that district.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

ELW 582

PRESENTATION OF THOSE AFFIRMING THEIR BAPTISMS

Today we have the privilege of witnessing as these siblings affirm their faith in Christ as well the promises made at their baptism. I invite each of you to stand where you are when you are named.

Nathan, Leah, Charlotte, Lily, and Olivia

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Congregation stands

Together with your siblings in Christ, you wish to profess your faith in God and reject sin. We make these bold statements not because we are absolutely certain about these things, but because we are always becoming faithful to them and learning to wrestle with these claims about our relationship with God. We join our voices with yours to remind you that we are all in this together.

People of God: Do you reject the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that pull us away from God? If so, say, "We do!"

We do!

Do you promise to continue supporting these children of God, affirming them through all circumstances with their first and forever name: Beloved? If so, say, "We do!"

We do!

Do you promise to hold space for them to keep growing in faith, so they learn to trust there is nothing they can do to make God love them any more or any less than they are already loved in Jesus? If so, say, "We do!"

We do!

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Congregation is seated

AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY

Will you join us in practicing your faith and keeping these responsibilities:

to live among God's faithful people, to pray,
to hear the word of God and share the Lord's Supper,
to learn the prayers, creeds, and commandments, to open the holy Scriptures,
to be nurtured by the faith and prayers of others,
so that you learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for
others and the world God made and work for justice and peace?

I will ask each of you to respond individually by saying, *"I will, and I ask God to help me."*

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

After all confirmands have been prayed for:

Join me in celebrating with these siblings in Christ.

We celebrate your faith, your voice, and your unfolding story as beloved children of God! On behalf of the whole church on earth, we will continue to pray for your faith and give thanks for you. God bless you!

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need..

A brief silence.

#1 We pray, O God, for the church. Unite us with any on the margins, that the whole world recognizes that your mercy is greater than our human capacity to restrict it. God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

#2 We pray, O God, for creation. Tend forests and fields and safeguard all cattle, birds, and wild animals. Preserve lakes, rivers, and oceans and send rains to water the earth. Revive lands recovering from fires and other natural disasters. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

#3 We pray, O God, for the nations. Awaken in our leaders compassion for people who have too often felt forgotten or neglected, and inspire policy solutions that promote equity and inclusion. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, you make all things new. Strengthen and renew the relationships we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Cathy & Mark, Jim, Chick & Kathleen, Carolyn, Astrid, Hunter, Mark & Lisa, and Preston. Bring new life and growth to the ministry of our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Breathe new life into those struggling in body, mind, or spirit.

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- Those affirming their faith today: Leah Erdley, Nathan Chaffee, Charlotte Finkbeiner, Lily Weidner, Olivia Weidner
- The safe birth of Ezra Lewis, grandson of Lori S, born June 1

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

- Jim M., friend of Jerry and Toni Thompson, who died on 6/2
- Kevin P., friend of the family of Chris & Lisa M., who died on 6/5

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- David G. as he begins hospice care at home
- Connie H., recently hospitalized
- Tom S. who had surgery and is hospitalized.

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

Silence for individual prayer.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

SHARING GOD'S MEAL

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace in a way that cares for friend and neighbor.

If you worship virtually, share the peace through the comments section or text.

OFFERING

Information about supporting Bethlehem's ministry with your offerings is available in the Welcome insert in your pew rack or by visiting

blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry.

OFFERING OF MUSIC

Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN
arr. Chris Vandebos

Olivia Koncilja, ukulele Michael Koncilja, ukulele

OFFERTORY



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 fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth,

all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

Amen.

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

God, you open wide your hands

And feed all creation with your goodness.

Open us to receive all that you give us –

Your mercy, your grace, your love, your very self. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, we 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

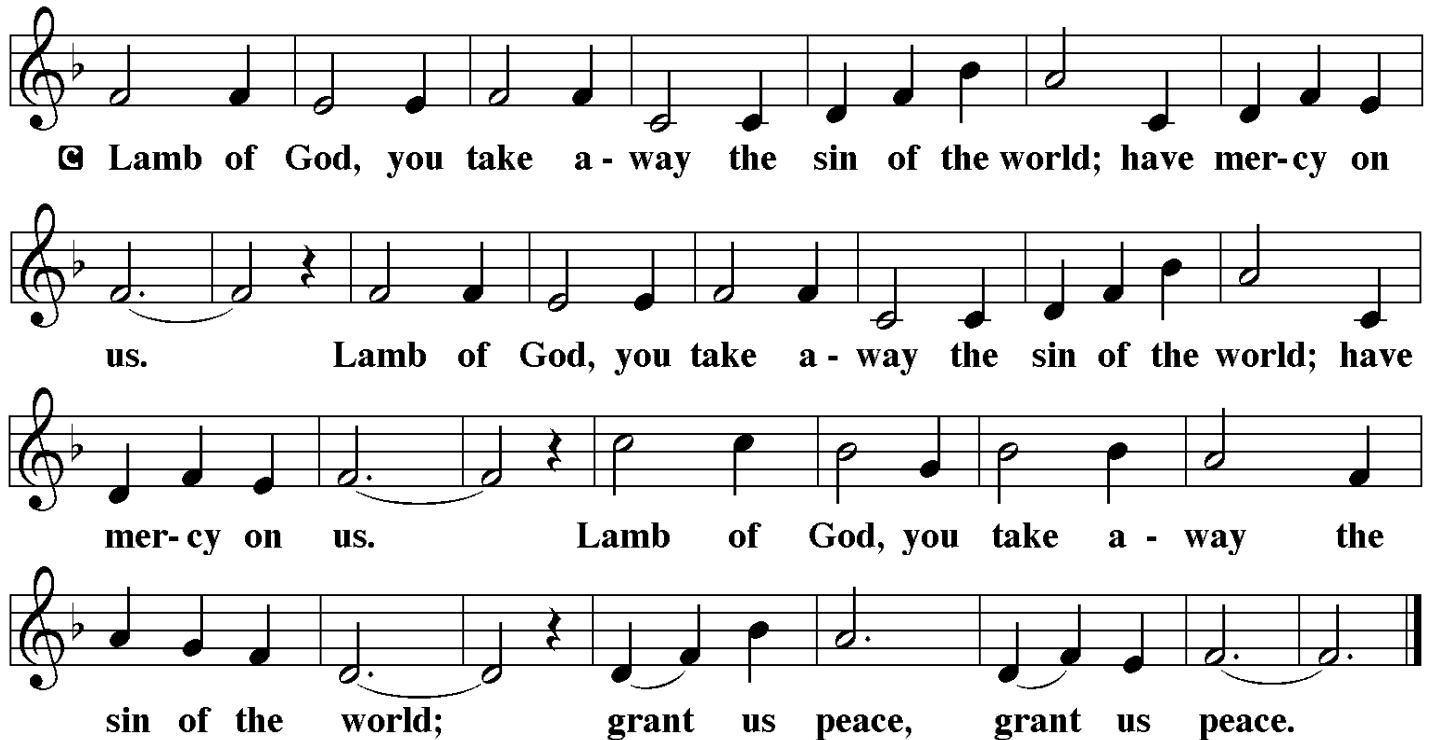
All are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Our communion bread is gluten-free, unless noted by the pastor. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant. 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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

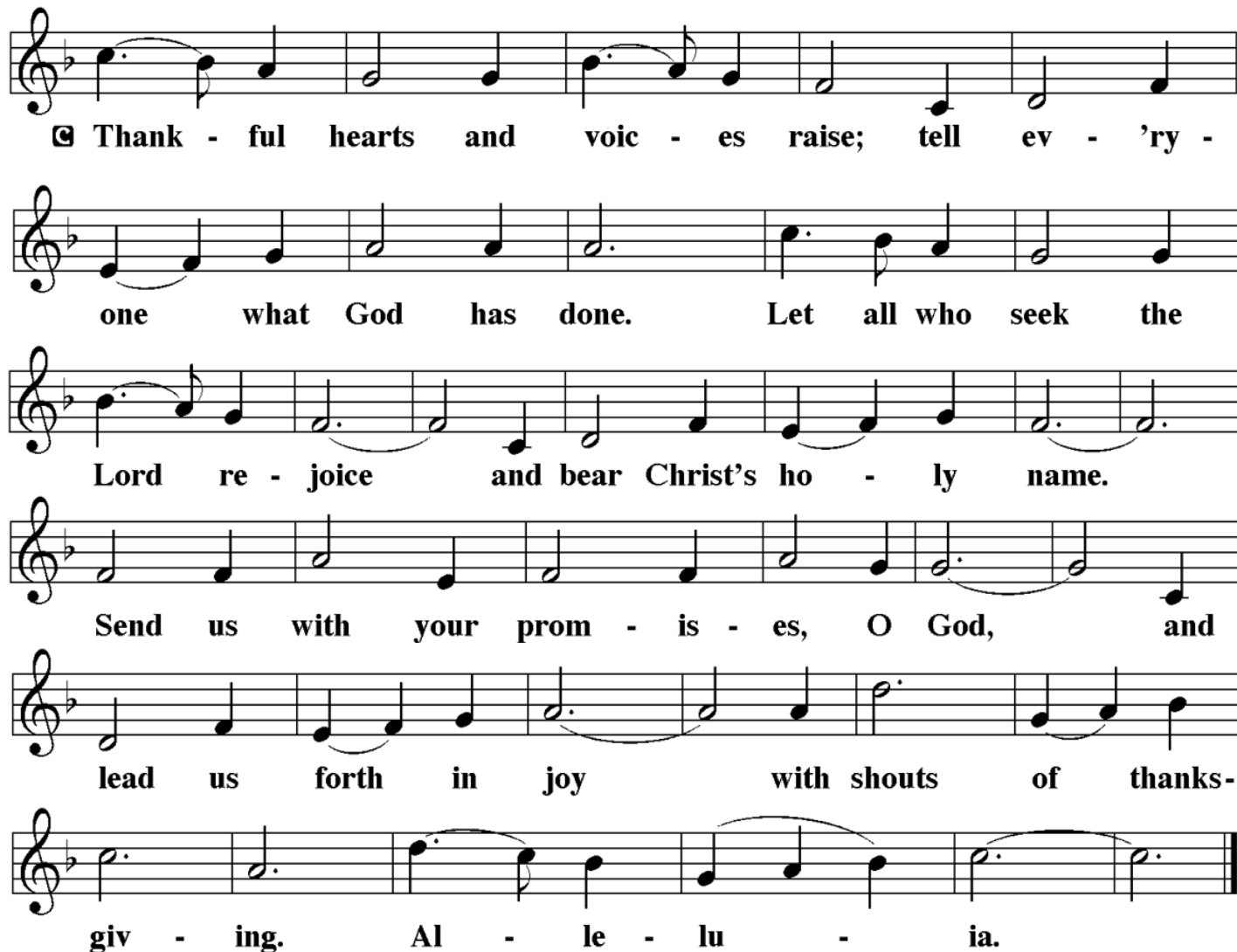
ELW 610

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in † Christ Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

ELW 836

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Divertissement (Gigue)

Gordon Young

Meet Bethlehem's 2023 Confirmands



Nathan David Chaffee

Family at BLC: Parents – Patty and David, Siblings - Michael Chaffee, Beth and Luke Trippi

School: Johanna Perrin

Activities/Interests/Hobbies: baseball, bowling, clarinet, youth events and worship at church

Bible verse: Keep alert; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13

Nathan says: This verse reminds me to be strong when people are sick and that my faith can help. I also like to serve and help people, so I can be courageous through my faith while doing that.



Leah Hope Erdley

Family at BLC: Parents – Justin and Nicole, Sibling - Owen

School: Willink Middle School

Activities: Outside of school I like to read as well as dance. Inside of school I am a part of chorus and I also enjoy science class. I served as an acolyte and was a part of the children's choir, and also participated in the kid's bell choir.

Bible Verse: There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: . . . a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4

Leah says: These two verses are special to me because of the two words laugh and dance. The word laugh stands out to me because laughter is an important piece of the relationships I share with my family and friends. Each of my friends and family know how to make me laugh when I am upset and I love that about them. My friends and I love to laugh about inside jokes and funny stories every day at school. One of my favorite things to do with my family is to sit around the card table and laugh with all of them. Another place where I experience laughter a lot is in the dance studio. The studio is one of my favorite places and it has been for a long time. Dancing just takes the weight off of my shoulders and it makes me feel free. I truly do believe that there is a time and place for everything and that makes these two verses even more special.



Charlotte Finkbeiner

Family at BLC: Parents – Annette and David, Siblings - Julia and Olivia

Bible Verse: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Charlotte writes: The verse from Romans 15:13 is meaningful to me because it shows how God can bring me happiness when I trust in him. I enjoy making music, and playing soccer. When I play music, sometimes I think about how lucky I am to have that gift from God. Also, when someone on my team, or a competitor gets injured on or off the field, I know that God will help them. This verse shows that when I trust God, and am in need, he will provide me with happiness and relief.



Sydney Rose Oliverio

Family at BLC: Parents – James and Shannon, Sibling - Grady

School: Johanna Perrin

Activities/Interests/Hobbies: Tumbling, Soccer, Track and Field, Horse back riding

Bible Verse: He will keep you safe from all hidden dangers and from all deadly diseases. He will cover you with his wing; you will be safe in his care; his faithfulness will protect and defend you. Psalm 91:3-4

Sydney says: I chose this verse as it gives me comfort that GOD will always be there for me during my hardest times. I notice that I look to God a lot when I'm feeling down, and this verse is an excellent reminder for me when I feel upset. No matter what you believe. God will always be there to protect and comfort you, even when you may not feel his presence. I also look to God in Church when I pray for the well-being of my family and friends. I have faith that God will protect my family and help them overcome their own obstacles in life. I feel that I can also be there for my friends and help them to feel loved when they may not have the courage to feel God in their life. God has given me the faith and confidence to always know I will be loved, protected and comforted even if I'm sick, feeling down or feeling lonely.



Trysta Reafler

Family at BLC: Parents - Robyn and Hans

School: Penfield

Activities/interests/hobbies: Track & Field, Skiing, Horseback Riding, Confirmation Class

Bible verse: I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

Trysta says: This verse connects to me because when I put my mind to things with God's help I can get them done. God makes me feel strong by supporting me through hard times. I can turn to him when I need his help figuring out challenging things. God also guards me and makes me feel safe. He is always here for me no matter what. I feel like I can do anything because I have him by my side every step of the way through ups and downs strengthening and supporting me.



Emerson Schaeber

Family at BLC: Todd, Sara, and Abigail Schaeber

School: Minerva Deland

Activities/Interests/Hobbies: Playing the bass, reading, and baking, Holy Week Liturgical Staging

Bible Verse: But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Luke 6:27-29

Emerson says: I feel as though these verses truly speak to me as a person. Being kind is extremely important to me and I think that even if someone doesn't necessarily reciprocate that kindness, it should be given to them anyways. People deserve unconditional understanding and love, and I try to live by those principles.



Autumn Grace Schoenfeld

Family at BLC: Parents – Kevin and Beth, Sibling - Ilana, Grandparents - Fred, and Rory Schoenfeld

School: Johanna Perrin Middle School

Activities/Interests/Hobbies: I am a part of JP Leaders, Huddle, Gardening and Sustainability Club, BSA Troop 2019 I am almost Star Rank, JP track team, Youth Group at Brown Croft Community Church in Penfield, and I play Viola. I am involved in at BLC is Confirmation Class.

Bible Verse: Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Luke 6:35

Autumn says: This verse is meaningful to me because it shows that you should be a Good Samaritan to everyone whether they are your favorite person or not and you should expect nothing in return. There are so many people today who will not help people today because they expect something in return. Also, there are so many people today who need help but don't receive it because the people who would help them expect something in return but they know they won't get it because the person can't give them something in return.



Abigail Lynn Teasdale

Parents/siblings/family at BLC: Parents: Bill and Joanna, Siblings - Billy and Ben

School: Minerva DeLand (Fairport)

Activities/interests/hobbies (in and out of school): I enjoy spending time with family and volunteering in the Fairport community. I am an advocate for C.U.R.E Childhood Cancer and have raised funds to support the organization. I am involved in the Drama Club, Helping Hands Club, Yearbook Club and the T.I.E.S Program at Minerva DeLand, Bible

School and helping in the Nursery

Bible verse: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Abby says: I have had many challenges in my life and through these challenges, I've had to be strong and brave when overcoming obstacles. I know God is with me and he has given me courage to battle all I may face wherever I go.



Lily Leilani Elizabeth Weidner

Family at BLC: Parent – Mike; Siblings - Addie and George, Grandparent - Shiellee Weidner

School: Victor Junior High School

Activities: Track & Field, Soccer, Horseback Riding, Piano, Violin, Confirmation Class

Bible Verse: Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18

Lily says: This is important to me because you should never be blind and fall into the darkness, thinking you are fine. You must be filled with light and the Spirit of God to enjoy and live a healthy, happy life.



Olivia Violet Shiellee Weidner

Family at BLC: Parent – Mike; Siblings - Addie and George, Grandparent - Shiellee Weidner

Activities: Track & Field, Soccer, Horseback Riding, Piano, Trombone, Confirmation Class

Bible Verse: Sarah lived to be 127 years old. Genesis 23:1

Olivia says: This verse is special to me because 127 years old is a long time to live. It was also unheard of that someone lived to be over 100 years old.

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Dr. Jim Jefferis, Director of The Chancel Choir

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

The altar flowers are given in celebration of Donna & Jim Berner's 50th wedding anniversary. *"Glory to God for blessing the path that led us here."*

Thank you to Mike Koncilja for serving as our guest musician today while Raelynn is away.

Thank you to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Talk with Mark Finke or one of the pastors following worship or contact Mark directly at volunteersupport@blcfairport.org.

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.

What's happening at BLC this week? Visit the Calendar of Events at www.blcfairport.org. Zoom links for virtual meetings are also found there. If you would like to schedule a meeting or event, please email the church office at office@blcfairport.org or visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

Church office hours: Our co-Pastors are available Sunday-Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling (585) 223-0634 or emailing pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org.

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Overview

The weeks of summer coincide with the beginning of the Pentecost season. Summer brings sunny warmth, growing crops, and the promise of harvest: images of the Holy Spirit's presence and activity in our lives, the church, and the world. Hosea speaks of God's presence as the dawn, as a gentle shower, as light. In our life together as a community of faith, what needs light, warmth, and watering to grow and flourish? How might we be attentive to others' needs to receive this nourishment through God's words of life and holy supper? We talked about our growth as disciples of Jesus at Outdoor Worship on June 4 and shared marigolds with all who gathered. We invite you to share images with us throughout the summer of your growing marigolds or the other ways your faith is being nurtured in the summer months!

