

† BALLARD
FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

2006 NW 65TH STREET
SEATTLE, WA 98117

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT 5736

☞ **Staff** ☞

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☞ **BFL Childcare Center** ☞

206-784-1307

Director: Karen Hutchison

☞ **Executive Team** ☞

President: Karrin Daniels

Vice President: Steve Redpath

Secretary: Sue Haugen

☞ **Administrative Leaders** ☞

Childcare: Robin Kotulka

Facilities: Tina Aure

Finance: David Austin

Personnel: Kathy Johnson

Gunbjorg Ladstein

BALLARD BLESSINGS

April 2021

† BALLARD FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

2006 NW 65th Street, Seattle, WA 98117 • 206.784.1306 • www.bflcs.org • A Reconciling in Christ Community

Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm sorry... and thank you.

First of all, I'm sorry. I know that each of you has known loss in this year so recently passed. I don't know the nature of each loss you have experienced. But I know that this experience of quarantine has left many of us with gaping holes of loss in our lives. For the young among us: There is the loss of contact with friends and the interactions so essential for personal development. For the old among us: There is the loss of time, which was already in short supply. For too many of us: There has been the loss of dear ones taken from us unexpectedly. For all of us: There is the loss of opportunities to which we had looked forward. So, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Secondly, thank you. Thank you for your patience during this time of pandemic. Call it what you want. Tolerance. Stability. Self-restraint. Composure. Persistence. Calmness. Fortitude. I know these days have required it. So, thank you. Thank you for your stick-to-it-ive-ness. Thank you for the ways you have endured.

And thank you for the ways in which you have continued to support our congregation. From tuning in to our online worship services... to the care you have extended to one another... to working in the church yard... to decorating the sanctuary for each new season... to volunteering with Project Phoenix... to the simple act of praying... to your continued financial generosity. All of it is so important... and so appreciated.

Your enduring spirit leads me to this conclusion: Even as we have been apart we have been united. We are the body of Christ together... in our grief... and in our persistence. It seems a contradiction to say it, but I believe it to be true: We have come a long way together... even as we have not been able to be together.

As more and more people are vaccinated, we draw closer to the day when we will be able to physically be together again. And, while we are not ready to pinpoint a re-opening date quite yet, our church leaders are beginning to have the conversation. In fact, this issue of Ballard Blessings is being sent out on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 13. Later that same day, a church council task force consisting of Karrin Daniels (President), Tina Aure (Facilities), Gunbjorg Ladstein (Personnel), David Austin (Finance), and Pastor Elise Scott and I is meeting in order to begin outlining a safe and wise re-opening plan. This will include the protocols that will be put in place to foster the healthiest possible environment for all who pass through our doors. The following Monday, April 19, our congregation's ***Our Life Together Team*** will meet to discuss how to implement the re-opening plan.

It has been said that, "God is in the details." I can think of no time in my life when those words have rung more true. Here are some of the considerations that must be taken into account as a re-opening plan is formed:

1. **Reservations.** As we return to worship, you will be asked to call the church office to notify us of your plans to attend on a given Sunday as well as the number of people in your party. This will allow us to create a seating chart that ensures safe distances between people and will help the church staff know how many pews will need to be roped off. Additionally, this will help us to monitor the number of people who plan to come, ensuring that we stay within state guidelines regarding how many can be present in our sanctuary for worship. While it is our hope that no one be turned away - and we do have a large sanctuary - you will be encouraged to sign up early as names will be taken on a "first come, first served" basis. In the event that anyone be turned away, that party would go to the top of the list the following Sunday.
2. **Observing safe distances.** In ensuring good health practices, some pews will be roped off and left empty. This might mean sitting in a pew other than the one to which you have grown accustomed.
3. **Masks.** All participants will be required to wear a face mask. Your church leadership sees the pandemic as a medical matter, and not a political one. Wearing a mask protects those who are most vulnerable to catching Covid-19. If you are wondering, "Once I am vaccinated, must I wear a mask?" the answer is yes. Studies have proven that people who have been vaccinated can still get and carry the disease. As the church, we will always take a protective stance toward those who are most vulnerable. Morally, we simply cannot knowingly put others at unnecessary risk. So, we will err on the side of caution. We will endeavor to have masks on hand for anyone who needs one.
4. **Holy Communion.** We are still discerning whether and how Holy Communion will be offered as we begin to come back together. We look forward to the day when we can confidently come to the altar to safely taste of God's grace in this way.
5. **Singing.** Martin Luther said, "I have no use for cranks who despise music, because it is a gift of God. Music drives away the Devil and makes people joyful; they forget thereby all wrath, unchastity, arrogance, and the like. Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor." We Lutherans prize music. When we return to in-person worship, there will most certainly be music. But we are still trying to determine how and when we can safely sing in worship. We are looking carefully at guidelines in this regard. But it is possible that the music may be more instrumental at first. When we do sing, it is likely that we will be singing through masks.
6. **Streaming the service.** Based on the surveys many of you filled out last fall, we expect that some people will be coming back to worship sooner than others. Therefore, we are exploring ways to stream or record and upload the service for those who remain at home.
7. **Volunteers.** As you can see, it will be necessary to take many matters into consideration. We will need people to help in all kinds of ways: Surface cleaners, greeters, mask ambassadors, ushers, technical people to help with filming and streaming the service and such. We will be putting out a call for volunteers as the day of re-opening nears.
8. **Surges and variants.** We are aware that the virus is something of a "moving target." Therefore, any plans to re-open come with something of an asterisk. If circumstances change to the degree that it is not safe to gather publicly, we will have to cancel plans to do so. It is our hope that this will not be the case, but your safety and community public health are our paramount concerns.

This letter concludes in much the same way as it began. I'm sorry... and thank you. I'm sorry that it has become so complicated to simply come together and worship... and I thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. Throughout history, God has seen the human family through times of great hardship, conflict, and challenge. I believe with all of my heart that God will see us through these days as well.

In Christ's Abiding Love,



Pastor Erik Wilson Weiberg

March Financial Report General Fund

	March Actual	March Budget	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance
Envelope/Loose Giving	\$26,370.04	\$27,166.67	\$64,239.54	\$81,500.01	(\$17,260.47)
Other Income	\$5,638.66	\$7,369.66	\$20,189.28	\$21,608.98	(\$1,419.70)
Total Income	\$32,008.70	\$34,536.33	\$84,428.82	\$103,108.99	(\$18,680.17)
Expenses	\$40,260.28	\$42,156.78	\$120,843.34	\$135,666.91	(\$14,823.57)
Surplus / (Loss)	(\$8,251.58)	(\$7,620.45)	(\$36,414.52)	(\$32,557.92)	(\$3,856.60)
Cash Balance	\$26,328.68				
Savings Balance	\$ 284,668.36				

Each month this report will show income and expenses for both the current month and year to date. In addition, the last column shows the variance (actual - budget). We are also reporting our current General Fund balance. We hope this helps you to better understand our overall financial situation. If you have any questions of feedback please contact your Finance Committee members.

The work of the church has continued and will continue by God's grace and with your help.

How to give: Online: www.bflcs.org/give.html

By check: made out to Ballard First Lutheran Church and mailed to
2006 NW 65th St
Seattle, WA 98117

YOUR OFFERINGS ARE IMPORTANT

Your offerings are still very much needed.

While we haven't gathered, the work of our mission has continued, uninterrupted, for over a year. Staff is working hard to provide creative, meaningful worship and music. Confirmation, Sunday School and Bible Study is still happening. Pastoral visits and care have continued. Our facilities are being maintained and cared for. Our council and mission teams meet and continue the work of caring for communities both within and without of our congregation. And we continue to serve meals to people in need every Sunday.

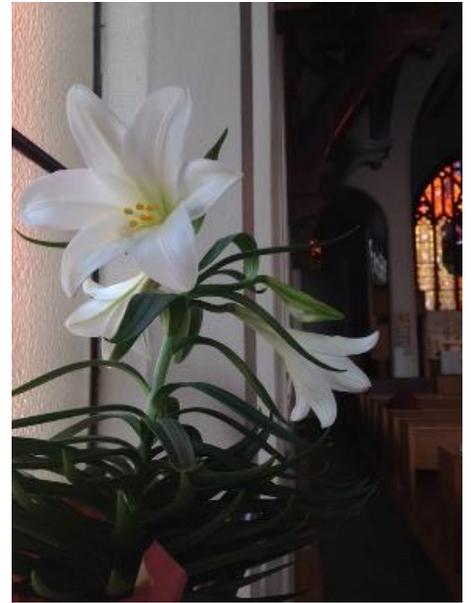
APRIL I CARE FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

April I CARE will support the Lutheran World Relief. Coronavirus has spread at a catastrophic rate across Africa and health systems are not prepared. Lutheran World Relief is serving as the bridge between reputable sources of information, such as the World Health Organization, and health systems and workers in vulnerable countries. They are helping to ensure that health workers have what they need to stay safe, so they can continue helping affected people and making sure workers have the most up-to-date information possible.

Send a check with I CARE designated in the memo line or go to www.bflcs.org/give.html to give online - just make sure to put the amount on the I CARE line.

EASTER LILIES

The lilies adorning the altar on Easter Sunday were in commemoration of Christ's Resurrection and are given by the people listed below.



In loving memory of:

Chris & Mabel Abelsen – Karen Abelsen
Julie Bjornsson Myers & her parent, Dwight & Shirley Bjornsson - Tina Aure
Gordon, Mayfair & Charlie Clauson - Jim Koskinen & Sue Clauson
Jean Lennartson & Jim Cole - Ann Maki
Mary & Johannes Ellingsen - Joan & Kim Peterson
My three boys, Boyd, Glen & Duane - Bernice Ellison
Betty - Elaine Erickson
Bruce Fuller & Family - Marilyn Fuller
Marshall & Marie Gooch - Robyn Middleton & Ray Gooch
Rosemarie Harmon & Family - Richard Harmon
Richard Horn - Edna Peterson, Chris, Keita & Silas Horn
Dick Hutchison - Karen Hutchison
Hilberg & Magdalene Johanson - Konrad & Helen Uri
Art Kitzman, recently died of COVID - Edna Peterson, Chris, Keita & Silas Horn
Chuck & Linda Koskinen - Jim Koskinen & Sue Clauson
Asta & Chris Ladstein - The Ladstein Family
Our Parents - Doug & Sharon Lange
Ramona Leer - Chris McClure
Ramona Leer – Karen Abelsen
Helene Lysness, Eli & Lillian Lysness - Margaret Vann
Arthur, Claudia, Brian Middleton - Robyn Middleton & Ray Gooch
My marvolous Mother & Father - Dale Pedersen
Bud & Lucille Peterson - Edna Peterson, Chris, Keita & Silas Horn
James Russell - Gary & Jane Russell
Fred Thurston - Mary Althoff
Our son, Giacomo Torcaso - Jeff Meyers & Mary Torcaso
Jann & Christa Ulriksen – Karen Abelsen
Pastor Malcolm & Lois Unseth, Jon Unseth – Karen Abelsen
Konrad & Emma Uri - Konrad & Helen Uri
Matthew Vann - Margaret Vann
Robert Weiberg, Ken & Ruth Wilson - Erik & Kristen Wilson Weiberg
Grant & Lisa Hegerberg

In thanksgiving for:

Walt – Elaine Erickson
For family & friends and celebration of this Easter season - Kathy Johnson & Kevin Host
Alice & Jack - Joan & Kim Peterson
Alex, Abby & Hans, Heidi - Joan & Kim Peterson
Carolyn & Jerome - Joan & Kim Peterson
Mark & Karen Scott - Monica & Elise Scott
Dianna & Lester Horntvedt, Anders & Henrik Weiberg - Erik & Kristen Wilson Weiberg
Our Pastors, Pastor Erik & Pastor Elise - Bernice Ellison

In honor of our confirmands Ryan Bohanan, Claire Fisher, Elliot Lowman, Charlie Maris, Henry Orme, and Etienne Redpath as they approach their confirmation and in loving memory of Giacomo Torcaso who remains a part of our class in spirit.

Given by Pastor Elise and Pastor Erik

Thanks to your generous gifts, a donation was sent to the Ballard Food Bank.

WE CONTINUE TO WORSHIP

Gather for Sunday worship every week by “tuning in” to the virtual service found **online on the website www.bflcs.org** or on our **YouTube Channel: Ballard First Lutheran Church – Seattle**. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ballard+first+lutheran+church+-+seattle.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY

For those rejoicing . . .

Richard Carper and Rosalind Caryl, married on April 14th.

For those with health issues . . .

Larry Chambers

Rosie Hardy

Jim Howard

Jacque Lund

Hondo McGibbon

Mac Magann

Norm Ormbrek

Dan Schadt

Benjamin, Brunella, James and Oliver Starr

Laurel Taylor

Bruce Wheeler

For those facing the pain of discrimination . . .

Grace Chinese Lutheran Church

For those who have died and for their families . . . :

Arline Larson

Janet McCrory

Colin Manderson

July Myers

Wallace Thorpe Sagen

Arne Sorenson

Maggie Zeller

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

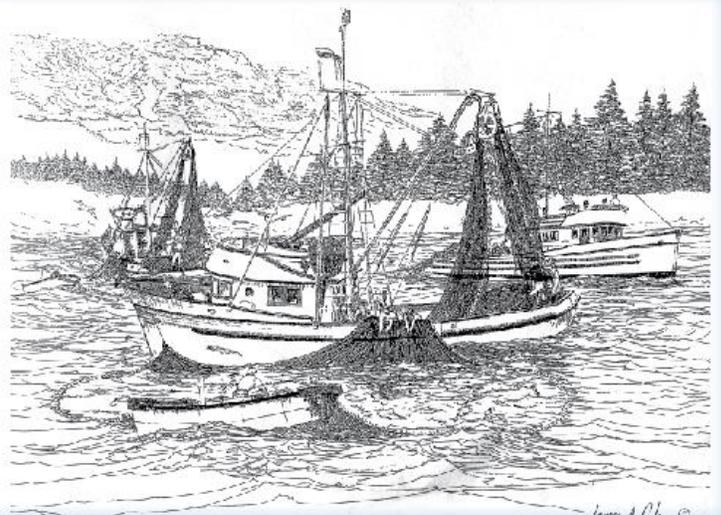
93RD ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021

– A VIRTUAL SERVICE –

Online at: BFLCS.org or

 Ballard First Lutheran Church - Seattle



This year, the Blessing will be held virtually and posted on the Ballard First Lutheran website and YouTube channel on Sunday, April 18th.

GATHERINGS AND FELLOWSHIP

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR



You can still grab a cup of coffee and visit with your fellow congregants! On the third Sunday of each month, we will host ZOOM coffee hour. It's a great opportunity to see each other face-to-face.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/93260661664?pwd=ZVUzNkR1bWxqTGfVQVBkQ21zKzdIZz09>

Meeting ID: 932 6066 1664

Passcode: 343742



ONLINE CHAT & CRAFT The second Wednesday of the month, from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Next gathering will be Wednesday, April 14th. Bring any crafts you've been working on and catch up with your BFL friends! Crafting is not a requirement, by the way – all are welcome to join in and share how you're doing, what you're up to, and get together online for some community.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/93957189770?pwd=ck8vQWxoM3hSWi9TZXJ2b2tZeis4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 939 5718 9770

Passcode: 817370



Bible Study Zoom

Wednesday, April 14th, April 28th

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97465004962?pwd=VTI2S1BsaHBnNU55dnRsdEtTcERSQT09>

Meeting ID: 974 6500 4962 Passcode: 941498

YOUTH EVENTS

COFFEE WEDNESDAYS

Coffee Wednesdays are continuing virtually for the time being! All youth between the ages of 6th and 12th grade are invited to join us for fun, games and fellowship between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. each Wednesday (note there will not be Coffee Wednesday on April 14th due to spring break)! The link to join is below:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/92039039334?pwd=ZGRYdEwxWGIYUVY2NDcZbVdYTDZiUT09>

Meeting ID: 920 3903 9334

Passcode: LYONS

Additionally, on Saturday, April 24th from 2 to 3 p.m., the youth will have a virtual terrarium making event to celebrate Earth month and draw our attention to the issues of climate change and justice that plague our world. Please let Pastor Elise know whether your youth would like to attend no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21st by emailing her at pastorelise@bflcs.org or texting or calling her at (803) 944-7006. All materials will be dropped off to the youth participating by Saturday morning.

CONFIRMATION AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our confirmation class continues to meet virtually on the 1st Monday and 2nd Wednesday of each month between 5 and 6 p.m. and we are continuing to make our way through The Small Catechism!

Sunday school continues to meet virtually on the first Sunday of each month. All children between the ages of 2 and 6th grade are welcome and encouraged to participate! Additionally, lesson plans and activity sheets are emailed out each week for families to do independently! If you would like for your family to be added to the email list, please let Pastor Elise know by emailing her at pastorelise@bflcs.org. The link for Sunday school on May 2nd is:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/91467316177?pwd=Nk1GNFdBXlRjEwS0tLV1IMMTFoUT09>

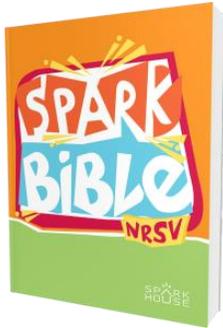
Meeting ID: 914 6731 6177 Passcode: 965343

Welcome to the Family Faith Corner!

The Family Faith Corner, a new addition to the Ballard First Lutheran newsletter, focuses on faith formation activities for families of all sorts and sizes! Each month, we will highlight a spiritual practice which can be done as a family or individually.

Of course, at the very foundation of our faith are Bible stories. These stories have been passed down from generation to generation to help guide our paths and offer us hope during the trials of life.

Unfortunately, I am not sure that I always appreciated Scripture in the way that I should have while I was growing up. However, as an adult, I have been continuously surprised by how certain Bible stories will pop into my mind when I'm going through something difficult. Parables, psalms, stories of healing and stories of wandering in the desert all remind me that I am not alone as I traverse this world. And as a pastor, I have witnessed the power of the Psalms to calm anxiety and bring a sense of God's peace to even the most dire of circumstances.



Our Biblical foundation begins as children, but ultimately, it never ends. The Bible continues to be a source of wisdom and hope for us throughout all of our lives.

This month, we are fortunate to be presenting Bibles to over 35 students in our Sunday School program and our Childcare Center. The gift of these Bibles, made possible by a generous anonymous donor, will serve the children and youth of Ballard First Lutheran Church and Ballard First Lutheran Childcare Center for many years to come. The gift of these Bibles will lay a foundation of faith for these children that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

Thus, in honor of this gift, we invite you to read one story or Psalm from the Bible at least once a week this month as our first Family Faith Corner Challenge. You can pick your favorites that are well known to you or you can explore stories that aren't quite as familiar to you. If you need assistance in choosing Scripture to read, you can utilize the daily lectionary (found at <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=B>).

As you read, ponder the ways in which the passage calls you to act, to hope, to love. As a family, talk about what God might be encouraging you to do. Talk about how the Scripture makes you feel and how it brings you hope and begin to notice the ways in which you carry the stories with you. Does your outlook on certain situations change? Do you find yourself doing things that you wouldn't normally do?

Scripture, when taken to heart, can transform our lives in all kinds of ways. This month, let the spiritual practice of reading the Bible transform your life in unexpected and joyful ways!

EARTH MONTH



APRIL IS EARTH DAY MONTH Earth Day has stretched from a single day to a month-long celebration of creation. For people of all spiritual traditions, it is a time to express gratitude for the land, water, and air that sustain us, as well as to renew our commitment to care for our common home. Recently, the Clean Fuel Standard (HB 1091) passed the Senate with a 27-20 vote! The next step is the governor's desk to be signed into law. This is a BIG win for climate action that will put us on a path toward reduced transportation pollution and increased electrification.

FROM THE CHILDCARE CENTER

😊 Hope you are all doing well. Thankfully the childcare center has been open throughout this time, and we're doing all right.

We are holding our auction this year; however it will be in the Childcare Center building. During the month of May, I will be putting a few items out per day. If there are any members from Ballard First Lutheran Church that would like to donate a new or as new item, it would certainly be appreciated! The item can be left in the church office or brought over to the Childcare Center.

Blessings, Ms. Karen & Staff