

**+ 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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00am Education

10:00am Worship

Coffee Hour Fellowship following Worship

Special Events in May

LYONS Dinner Theater "WAITING FOR LUTHER"

May 6, 7 at Queen Anne Lutheran, 7:00 pm

Dessert Matinee: May 7 at 2:00pm

SPRING TEA

May 7th at 11:30am

BALLARD BLESSINGS

MAY 2016

† BALLARD FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, we at Ballard First Lutheran affirm the dignity and worth of all people. We believe God calls us to be a community of grace, compassion, and justice. With St. Paul, we affirm that, in Christ, "There is no longer Jew or Gentile, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all are one in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3:28) We believe that the Gospel, that is, the good news of Jesus Christ, is God's gift for all people. Furthermore, we believe that this gift is to be shared unconditionally, without regard to age, race, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic or family status, or physical or mental ability.

☞ Staff ☜

Pastor Erik R. Wilson Weiberg

pastorerik@bflcs.org

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

pastorlaurie@bflcs.org

Intern Kaitlin Winter-Eulberg

intern@bflcs.org

Church Administrator: Cindy Jackson

office@bflcs.org

Caretaker: Dale Pederson

Treasurer: Julie Millet

Organist: Ed Egerdahl

Minister of Music:

Molly Barnes

musicminister@bflcs.org

Renewal: Jessica Zimmerle

renewal@bflcs.org

Accompanist: Jim Fisher

☞ BFL Childcare Center ☜

206-784-1307

Director: Karen Hutchison

☞ LYONS ☜

206-706-5997

www.roaringlyons.org

Director: Jon Ross

Program Assistant: Megan Hundley

☞ Church Council ☜

President: Susan Weber

Vice President: Jeff Powers

Secretary: Lisa Laxson

☞ Ministry Coordinators ☜

Childcare: Karin Swanson

Facilities: Steve Maris

Finance: Lori Cleaves

Personnel: Susan Clauson

☞ Council At-Large Reps ☜

Lauren Jensen

Edna Peterson

Happy Spring!!! I hope everyone is enjoying our spring! Longer days, more sunshine, new beginnings – what's not to love?

At our annual congregational meeting in January, we passed a budget with a bottom line of negative \$46,674. We took a leap of faith! As Council President, I promised that the congregation would be kept informed as to the status of BFL finances.

The Council struggled with how to balance the budget with the existing projected revenues. One step at February's council meeting was to vote on not having another intern once Kaitlin Winter-Eulberg's internship was over in August 2016. Despite this being a part of the 2016 budget as passed, it was a minor step in the right direction of reducing our projected budget deficit. At that time there was no indication that BFL would be chosen to host another intern. However, shortly after that vote, we learned that BFL had in fact been chosen to host another intern and that a person had already been assigned to us.

Gratefully, BFL has received special gifts to the general fund of \$53,795, unbudgeted, unsolicited gifts! With that knowledge, the Council voted to reinstate the 2016 budget dollars for the intern. We will welcome Joshua Sullivan from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia in late August. While we will miss Kaitlin, we welcome Joshua, whose focus will be split working with FAN (Faith Action Network) and Renewal. As you know, Jessica Zimmerle has led the Renewal ministry through a grant from the FTE (Forum for Theological Exploration). She will be moving on to seminary studies at Seattle University this summer, but will continue to work with Earth Ministry. Joshua will continue her work with Renewal, which is an outreach to 20-somethings in our church, faith community, and neighborhood whose tenets are that of worship, connect, question, and serve. This is a ministry targeted to and for the next generation of faith leaders.

More good financial news is that BFL received a \$10,000 gift, in memory of Naomi Briest, to "Retire the Debt." This means that a principal payment has been made to reduce the MIF (Mission Investment Fund) loan, which BFL undertook for major capital improvements several years ago. With this gift and budgeted monthly payments of \$1222 throughout 2016, the balance by the end of the year will be approximately \$10,000. Of course, this amount could be less if additional offerings to the "Retire the Debt" fund are made between now and then.

While BFL started the year out with a very negative budget, through God's grace we have received gifts that have dramatically changed our financial status. Even more good news! BFL will be receiving new members into our congregation on May 1st! Please join in welcoming new members to our faith community.

Keep the faith! Keep the gifts coming! Enjoy the spring! Peace and love!

Susan M. Weber, BFL Council President

INTERN REFLECTIONS



"Being a part of a community is like tending a small garden. If you keep pulling up the plants to see if the roots are growing, you will gather nothing."- adapted from *The Art of Pastoring* by William C. Martin

Sending grace and peace to you in this Easter time of blooming. I find myself mesmerized by nature during my walks in these tree-lined streets of Ballard and am whispering prayers of gratitude to the flowers as I stop to take in their sweet scents. The work of blossoming is gorgeous but I know takes lots of patience and effort, especially when we think of the work that goes into us tending to our own roots as a community. My internship project, the Listening Season, is wrapping up with profound conversations and meaningful relationships being formed as people took a risk to take time to listen to another person for what motivates them and gives their life meaning. Relational and intentional community requires the small movements of growing roots and grounding people in the life that Christ calls us to. Let's tend to what is springing up in this community with the same love and care we would give a budding flower.

In serenity, Kaitlin Winter-Eulberg

PASTORAL ACTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

Memorial

Eileen Bryant
April 4, 2016

Wedding

Madeline Gagner and Skylar Turner
April 16, 2016

PRAYER CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

As a community we gather in Christ's love to support one another in prayer:

Pastor Tim Devine and the people of St. Paul's United Church of Christ (as they face the challenges of being displaced from their church home)

Deb Eberhardt (friend of Lauren Jensen; undergoing chemo for pancreatic cancer)

Madeline Gagner and Skylar Turner (as they begin their married life together).

The family of Marie Gooch (mother of Ray Gooch, Marie died in April)

Ethel King (in hospice)

Susan Junior (friend of Wendy Weber, treatment for cancer)

Family of Rich Kruse (brother of Nancy Awamura, childcare employee, Rich died in April)

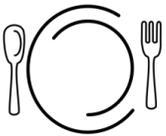
Marla Parisi (health concerns)

Greg Polzin (friend of Nancy Fisher, undergoing chemo for pancreatic cancer)

Family of Jon Van Keulen (friend of Lauren and Josh Jensen, as they mourn the loss of a faithful father, husband, and son)

SUNDAY DINNERS

In response to the needs of the hungry multitudes, Jesus commands, "You give them something to eat!"



There is a lot of enthusiasm in the community about the Sunday Dinner program. Beginning Sunday, May 8th, an ecumenical program shared by six Ballard groups will offer dinners on Sunday nights for our neighbors who are homeless or food insecure. Ballard First is providing the space to the community to serve meals on Sundays from 5– 6:00 p.m. **Our first Sunday cooking and serving will be May 29th, thereafter we will provide dinner on the 4th Sunday of each month.**

You can financially support this program by making a gift directly to Ballard First Lutheran or by contributing to a CrowdRise fundraiser for the general operations of Sunday Dinner – for staffing, facilities and supply costs. Your gifts will go directly to these services and are tax deductible – please go to <https://www.crowdrise.com/ballard-sunday-dinners-for-our-homeless-neighbors>.

Is There Life After Death?

By Kirby Unti, NWWA Bishop

One of the questions that I assume many pastors are asked is, "Do you believe in life after death?" I just recently had this conversation with a woman whose husband, Andy, I buried at age 50.

It has always been important for me as both person and pastor to be honest about what I believe and not to give out "pat" pastoral responses.

The truth is I don't know if there is life after death and I won't know until I die. All I can go on are some clues that I have observed while living on this side of death.

Death has been one of my greatest teachers, as I have been privileged to be with many people as they are dying and breathing their last breath. It has often amazed me how many people go through a stage of dying where they are talking out loud to relatives that have gone before them. I experienced this with both my father and my mother. It appeared as if my father was working overtime to wrap up some unfinished business before he died. On several occasions he would say, "I am not done yet." Such occasions may well be a clue that a person has one foot in this life and one foot in whatever is to come.

Likewise, I have had several occasions to talk to people who have had near-death experiences. Their stories are indeed quite compelling. What has amazed me the most is the reassurance such folk have in facing death when it comes. Perhaps the greatest clue for me about life after death is the joy of holding a new born baby in my arms. I know of no experience that equals this in magnitude. Holding one who has spent nine months being molded into a breathing, living, crying, and gurgling human being speaks to me of a creative force that is beyond my imagination.

I remember how wowed I was in kindergarten when the seed that I planted in a Styrofoam cup of dirt turned into a bean sprout. Bean sprouts are pretty impressive - but come on - a baby?

My reasoning goes like this, "Whatever force is behind the creation of a baby surely has the capacity to create new life when death comes." The force for me is the God I have come to know as the Life Giver in so many facets of my life.

I must add that May is my month to believe in the power of life. It is the month that restores my soul after a long, dark, cold and very wet winter. Winter is when everything dies for me and I have to fight extra hard against the darkness. May is life in full bloom. The yard is still green, the rhododendrons are in all of their glory and the trees are thick in leaves, needles and green.

Death and life are baked into all of the creation giving me great cause to believe that, when death comes, be prepared for the likelihood that life will follow.

I loved Andy in life and there is nothing more that I want for my friend Cheryl than to see him again. Will it happen? I don't know. This is what faith is all about for me - trusting the clues that God provides along the way.

I do know this about the death of my own parents – If I never see them again I will not mourn because they gave to me in this life time enough blessing to last the all of my life.



I CARE FOR MAY

I CARE SUNDAY is May 22nd and the recipient will be Lutheran World Relief for continuing relief efforts following the recent catastrophic earthquakes in both Ecuador and Japan, as well as the flooding in Houston. When you give to Lutheran World Relief, your gift goes to the greatest need.

RACHEL CIRCLE

Rachel Circle is a group open to all women of the church. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm, at each other's homes. Our contact person for emails regarding meetings and locations is Terry Lafave, t1e603@comcast.net.

Rachel Circle typically conducts a Bible Study discussion each month. We also participate in various activities of the church; hosting a spring women's luncheon, Christmas luncheon, coffee hours, funeral receptions, soup suppers, making donations to Compass Housing Alliance and Ballard Food Bank. It provides an opportunity to get to know one another better, to support each other and our church, and to build and sustain community, within and outside of, Ballard First Lutheran.

New people are always welcome, please come and visit our next meeting!

SPRING TEA



SPRING TEA

Women of all ages are invited to the Spring Tea
Saturday May 7th at 11:30 am in Haavik Hall

There will be a light lunch, fellowship and a fun program.

Please RSVP to Jan Holm at 206-351-4942 janholm@comcast.net

BFL RUMMAGE SALE



BALLARD FIRST LUTHERAN RUMMAGE SALE will be held on Saturday, June 11th, beginning at 9:00am.

Volunteer sign-ups coming soon in Haavik Hall. We are looking for CLEAN and quality books, games, toys, children's items, kitchen ware, clothes, linens, sporting goods, upholstered small furniture, plant starts, tools/gardening, antiques/collectables, costume jewelry, and small (non-upholstered) furniture items (like chairs and end tables). Items need to be able to fit in a car!

Drop off items to the church basement stage after church on Sunday, June 5th and Tuesday, June 7th through Friday, June 10th during church hours, 9:30 – 5:00. We do not have space to collect items any sooner than these dates.

Altar Care Month of May: Marilyn Fuller, Terry LaFave, Sharon Lange, Ramona Leer



Acolytes

May 1	Carl Redpath
May 8	Grace Orme & Lydia Howard
May 15	Kai Ole Strommen & Paulson Kleven
May 22	Grace Orme & Lydia Howard
May 29	TBD

Assisting Minister

May 1	Kaitlin Winter-Eulberg
May 8	Erin Schadt
May 15	Karrin Daniels
May 22	Chris Bloomquist
May 29	Karin Swanson



Communion Assistants

May 1	Gunbjorg Ladstein, Edna Peterson
May 8	Lisa Laxson, Kris Breton
May 15	Kathy Johnson, Lauren Jensen
May 22	Jen Belcourt, Nancy Fisher
May 29	Kristen Wilson Weiberg, Mathias Fink



Counters

May 1	Juliet Dickens, Ken Mingeaud, Kris Breton
May 8	Ramona Leer, Jan Holm
May 15	Tina Aure, Karen & Malcolm Unseth
May 22	Bernice Chouery, Jamie Fera, Julie Edralin
May 29	Laurie & Terry McGibbon, Ellen & Geoff Wall



Lectors

May 1	Kristen Wilson Weiberg
May 8	Keita Horn
May 15	Susan Weber
May 22	Gordon Kramer
May 29	Gunbjorg Ladstein

Ushers

May 1	Kim & Joan Peterson, Sherry Lemmer
May 8	Jenny Holm, Nick Host
May 15	Laurie Fladhus & Eric Green, Jennifer & John Schwartz
May 22	Dave Hilmoe, Gunbjorg Ladstein, Marcia Nelson
May 29	Kim Peterson, Sylvia Vikingstad



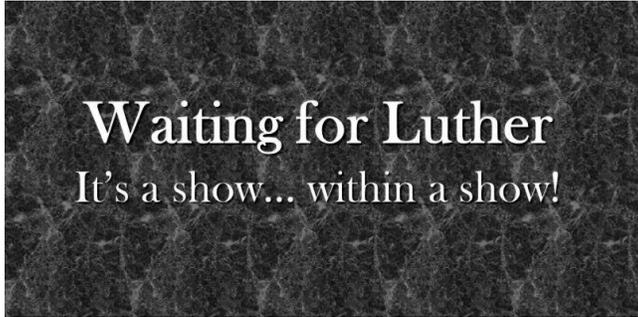
Van Drivers

May 1	Kim Peterson
May 8	Tina Aure
May 15	Ray Gooch
May 22	Ray Gooch
May 29	Dave Hilmoe

LYONS

A big thank you to all our volunteers and audience members for another great Dinner Theater! If you missed the opening weekend, you can still get tickets for our May 6th and 7th shows at www.roaringlyons.org. The proceeds from "Waiting for Luther" will go toward our summer trips to Yakima, WA and Lakeside, MT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



SHOW DATES

Fri, May 6 – 7:00pm

Sat May 7 – 2:00pm & 7:00pm

TICKET PRICES

7:00 Dinner Shows Adults: \$30; Ages 5-18 & 65+: \$20

2:00 Dessert Matinee Adults: \$15; Ages 5-18 & 65+: \$10

Children under 5: Free

Tickets available at www.roaringlyons.org or at the BFL Office

ALL SHOWS AT

Queen Anne Lutheran Church

2400 8th Ave W Seattle WA 98119

FROM THE CHILDCARE CENTER



Our classrooms, with children ages three and up, participated in both a Hop-A-Thon for Muscular Dystrophy and a Trike-A-Thon for St. Jude's during the month of April. Several hundred dollars was raised for each organization. The children learned a bit more about helping to care for others who might not be as fortunate as we are. It's always nice to see their enthusiasm towards taking part in these activities!

One last reminder that our **Silent Auction is on Friday, May 13th beginning at 5:30 p.m.** in the lower social hall. Dinner will be served as close to 6 p.m. as possible, with table bidding going on throughout- until the tables start closing at around 7:15 p.m. We hope you can attend!

God's Blessings,
Ms. Karen & Staff

SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

9am - 9:50am (meet in the office building)



Date

5/1/16

5/8/16

5/15/16

5/22/16

5/29/16

Theme

Love God, Love Others: Four Friends

Love God, Love Others: The Good Samaritan

Love God, Love Others: Mary and Martha

Love God, Love Others: The Prodigal Son

Love God, Love Others: Zacchaeus

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IN MAY

In May, the Adult Sunday School will continue to focus on the theme, "How my faith informs how I think about..."

May 1: "How my faith informs how I think about... military service" (Jeff Powers)

May 8: "How my faith informs how I think about... the law, part II" (Susan Weber)

May 15: "How my faith informs how I think about... money; stuff, risk, legacy, and experience" (Dave Hilmoe)

May 22: "How my faith informs how I think about... nursing and public health" (Kristen Wilson Weiberg)

May 29: "How my faith determines how I think about... changing church, changing Ballard; on internship, renewal, and reform" (Pastors Laurie Jones and Erik Wilson Weiberg)

Adult Sunday school classes are offered in Haavik Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:00am.

FAITH AND EVERYDAY LIFE – LUTHERAN COUNSELING NETWORK



Playing Games

The thunder rolled across the sky. "I'm scared, Mommy!" "It's OK, 'tis only the angels bowling." Bowling? Does God have time for games?

In a world that is crazy; where some have little to eat, others are homeless, wars are constant, and despair is the menu for the news, is there time to play? For the Christian, is having time for play even an option?

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

A: Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q: Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A: Because Noah was standing on the deck. (Groan. . .)

Maybe the bible stories are too sacred to utilize for humor? Should we be seriously serious whenever we approach the words that convey the gift of life? Or, is it possible that the "words of life" are also meant to tickle our funny bones, engender a deep belly laugh, or bring about that joyous contagion that only Play, in all its aspects, can bring?

Can you imagine Jesus with a smile on his face? We can imagine Moses angry, afraid, or triumphant. How about smiling? Do you suppose God chuckled when the people at Babel tried to communicate? Or how do you think God reacted when David danced so exuberantly around the Ark of the Covenant that his short ephod flew up and revealed his nakedness?

I can't help but give thanks that the God I know smiles, laughs, dances, plays games, and deeply encourages us to find the time to Play with each other and with him. Do you suppose that God plays with you, too? Stay alert!

Lutheran Counseling Network



Come as you are to Renewal: an engaging spiritual community for young adults in their 20s and 30s to worship, connect, question, and serve.

First Sunday Worship May 1, 7:00pm, BFL Sanctuary

This casual worship service is a safe space to lay down your burdens and re-fuel for the month ahead; all with a contemplative, supportive, and authentic community.

Renewal is growing out of Ballard First Lutheran Church. Follow www.facebook.com/RenewalBFL for event listings and contact renewal@bflcs.org with questions.

FAITH ACTION NETWORK**Seattle Summit on May 15th from 3-5pm.**

Faith Action Network's advocating faith communities across Washington State are coming together during our annual Spring Summits to talk about how our legislative agenda fared during the past session and plan for the rest of the year. Join us on May 15th from 3-5 pm at Seattle First Baptist Church (111 Harvard Ave, Seattle, WA 98122).

Register here: <http://fanwa.org/events-2/regional-spring-summits/>

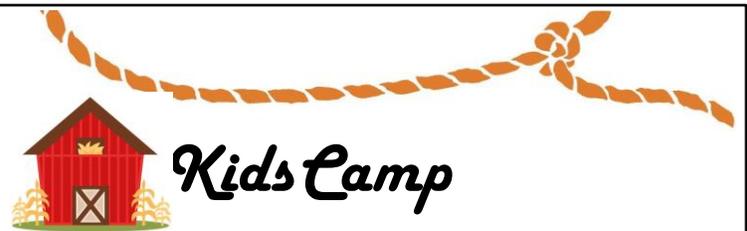
OUR LIFE TOGETHER

SAY CHEESE! PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR A NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY FOR BALLARD FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Appointments are being scheduled at Yuen Lui Roosevelt Portrait Studio (924 NE 63rd St.) until the end of June! Just follow these three easy steps!

1. Call the Yuen Lui Roosevelt Studio at 206-523-5707 to book your appointment. (Make sure to state that you are with Ballard First Lutheran Church when you call)
2. Show up at the studio at the appointed time
3. Just smile and say "cheese!"

Please note: Call Cindy at the church office (784-1306) if you need a ride and she will get you in touch with a Rachel Circle member who will be happy to take you to/from your appointment.



Kids Camp Roundup!

August 1st – 5th

@ Ballard First Lutheran 9:00 – 12:00

Ages 3 – entering 5th

Join Ballard First Lutheran and Trinity United Methodist for summer fun at Kids Camp! Under the theme "Roundup" kids will learn Bible stories through daily games, storytelling, crafts, and snack.

All are welcome.

\$50/child, max \$100/family

Scholarships available

More information and registration at:

www.tumseattle.org