

**+ 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

9:00 a.m. Education

10:00 a.m. Worship

Coffee Hour Fellowship following Worship

Upcoming Events

Advent Soup Suppers & Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays: Dec. 6, Dec. 13, and Dec. 20

6pm Soup Supper + + + 7pm Worship

Join us as we celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child

Sunday, December 24th

Service of Lessons and Carols at 10:00 a.m.

Manger Service and Live Nativity at 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight Worship and Holy Communion at 11:00 p.m.

Monday, December 25th – Christmas Day Worship at 10:00am

BALLARD BLESSINGS

December 2017

† 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 Elise Scott

pastorelise@bflcs.org

Vicar Sarah Derrick

intern@bflcs.org

Church Administrator: Cindy Jackson

office@bflcs.org

Caretaker: Matt Horton

Treasurer: Julie Millet

Organist: Ed Egerdahl

Minister of Music:

Molly Barnes

barnesma@plu.edu

Renewal: Jessica Zimmerle

renewal@bflcs.org

Accompanist: Jim Fisher

Sunday Nursery: Emily LaFave

☞ BFL Childcare Center ☞

206-784-1307

Director: Karen Hutchison

☞ LYONS ☞

206-706-5997

www.roaringlyons.org

Director: Bryant Williams

Program Assistant: Megan Hundley

☞ Church Council ☞

President: Tom Tocher

Vice President: Karrin Daniels

Secretary: Emily Olsoy

☞ Ministry Coordinators ☞

Childcare: Karin Swanson

Facilities: Tina Aure

Finance: Kris Breton

Personnel: Susan Clauson

☞ Council At-Large Reps ☞

Lauren Jensen

Edna Peterson

Dear Friends,

Every year, I eagerly await the return of Advent. For as long as I can remember, it has been one of my two favorite liturgical seasons.

Perhaps as a child, I was drawn to the season because Advent meant evenings spent driving around looking at Christmas lights, the nightly ritual of gathering around the Advent calendar with my sisters eagerly anticipating the piece of chocolate that waited for us beneath the small, paper door of the calendar, and hours spent rehearsing for the annual Santa Lucia pageant.

What wasn't there to love?

These days, I'm often too tired to drive around looking at Christmas lights, I hardly ever get around to buying an Advent calendar, and I'm too old to participate in any Santa Lucia pageants!

And yet, despite the fact that these annual Advent rituals have faded away as quietly as my childhood, Advent is more important to me than ever.

In a world filled with seemingly never-ending headlines of gun-violence, hate-crimes, war, threats of war, racism, gender discrimination, and sexual assault and harassment, Advent offers us a pause button - a time where we can surrender into hope instead of succumbing into fear - nestling us into a cocoon of joy-filled anticipation as we await the birth of Jesus.

In the stillness of Advent, God reminds us that God chooses to be with us.

God doesn't look at the headlines and throw up his/her hands saying, "There's too much pain and grief and sorrow and suffering in this world! I want nothing to do with it!" Instead, God chooses to enter our world. God chooses to experience life in all of its rich fullness - in scarcity and abundance, in hope and in fear, in joy and in agony.

Advent reminds us that no matter the state of the world surrounding us, God chooses to walk with us, to be with us, to be one of us.

God didn't take the easy way out when Jesus was born and God doesn't take the easy way out now. Instead, God steps right alongside us into this complicated, messy world in which we live.

In Advent, God reminds us that we are never alone. God is always with us.

What isn't there to love?

Pastor Elise

VICAR SARAH

Grace and Peace, Friends,

Happy New Year! This might sound a little premature, but we are, in fact in a new church year as we enter into Advent. In Advent, we will prepare for Christ's coming into the world, anticipating the Word made flesh. We are invited into waiting, into staying awake, because we can never know when Christ will come into our midst.

While this is a future promise when Christ will come again at the last, there is also a promise of Christ coming in our midst here and now, again and again. We are invited to open ourselves to the little inbreakings of Christ into our lives each day. Born to a young, unmarried mother, to parents who would soon become refugees forced from their home, Christ shows up in unexpected ways and in unexpected ways.

Advent invites us to be alert, to wait, to look for where Christ might be showing up in our world today. I hope that as we move through this season, that we can wait together, hope together, and trust together that Christ is coming. May we see him together, and respond to his presence among us together.

CELEBRATE ADVENT



Advent is both a wonderful and a challenging liturgical season. We begin a new church year while the world is busy finishing a calendar year—and the month is filled with shopping, pageants, and parties beyond what our energy and time can handle. But while society urges us to hurry and spend, scripture and tradition beckon us to slow down and wait.

At Advent, we celebrate the light of Christ that illumines the world's darkness.

For three consecutive Wednesdays in December, you are invited to come for a meal and Holden Vespers worship.

On **December 6th**, **December 13th** and **December 20th**, soup will be served in Haavik Hall from 6:00-m to 7:00pm. Worship begins in the sanctuary at 7:00pm each of the three Wednesdays.

On Wednesday, December 20th, when shadows are the longest, people are invited to stay for a service of healing and hope. Come, live in the light!

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 17!

Early this month, a mailing will arrive at every household of our congregation. It will include a letter from Pastor Elise, along with commitment forms for 2018. Please prayerfully consider the ways you plan to give in 2018 and bring the forms to worship for a special processional offering on Sunday, December 17; or you can drop them by the office, mail them in, or leave them in the offering plates through the end of the year. Thanks in advance for your faithfulness and generosity!



The Darkness of Life

The Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop, NWWA Synod
From the December 2017 edition of *The Spirit*

We are living during the darkest time of the year and the world around us is following suit. Daily we see and hear reports of just how

dark we can be as people. Stories of mass killings, sexual assaults, bullying, war, and murder.

One of the things I admire most about Luther was his capacity to embrace the darkness largely by acknowledging his own. It was in coming face to face with his own shadow and human depravity that he discovered God's grace.

I have always counted it a great gift that I had the privilege of doing my Clinical Pastoral Education under the supervision of Dr. William A. Miller. Bill wrote the book, *Making Friends with Your Shadow*, where he makes the case that all of us have a dark side to our lives. The understanding is that our dark side is the opposite of our public image and equal in proportion.

This is why it is so shocking when we discover the shadow of someone we hold in high regard. When people refuse to own the dark side of their life, it grows in intensity. The goody-two-shoes people are often the most critical of their neighbors. Such people work overtime suppressing the full truth of their lives – which can lead to acting in secret.

Jesus was very clear about the importance of knowing your own darkness. He would say things like, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone." Or he would say, "Remove the log from your own eye before you remove the speck from your neighbors."

The church ought to be the one place in the community where we can struggle more honestly about the challenges of being human. It ought to be a place that both helps us come to grips with our dark side and holds us accountable for addressing it in healthy ways.

If acknowledging one's dark side improves the likelihood that one will not act on it, is it equally true that church and country must do the same? I think the answer to this is YES.

This is why the churches of the Northwest issued a letter of apology to the tribes for the horrible and unjust ways we have treated these brothers and sisters.

This is why the 500th Commemoration of the Reformation was a time for Lutherans to confess the horrible ways Luther depicted the Jews and for contributing to the violence that spread across Europe.

This is why delegations from the United States have gathered at Hiroshima and Nagasaki to commit to one another that never again will we unleash such deadly force.

If we take seriously the Lutheran understanding of Saint and Sinner, then we need to take more seriously how it manifests itself in corporate ways as well as individual ways.

The way to face the truth of dark times is to acknowledge that they are true and to cling to the promise that the Light came into the darkness and the darkness will not overcome. This Light is the true gift of Christmas. Come Lord Jesus!

FINANCIAL HISTORY REPORT

October Financial Report General Fund

	October Actual	October Budget	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance
Envelope/Loose Giving	\$24,536.51	\$21,710.74	\$238,882.93	\$246,003.14	(\$7,120.21)
Other Income	\$10,575.87	\$9,024.99	\$188,113.28	\$141,249.94	\$46,863.34
Total Income	\$35,112.38	\$30,735.73	\$426,996.21	\$387,253.08	\$39,743.13
Expenses	\$153,878.19	\$42,287.11	\$562,882.92	\$428,778.47	\$134,104.45
Surplus / (Loss)	(\$118,765.81)	(\$11,551.38)	(\$135,886.71)	(\$41,525.39)	(\$94,361.32)

Cash Balance **\$23,976.30**

This month's expenses reflect 20% of the Barden Estate Gift \$101,250 designated to the BFL Endowment Fund. 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.

In October, these are some of the ways our financial support to the mission and ministry budget became Christ's hands and feet in the world: provided a nurturing place for the children of our Childcare Center, transported members to Sunday worship in our church van, celebrated the Blessing of the Animals, held weekly Bible Study, provided space for Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, hosted the Sunday Dinner program, provided space for AA groups, LYONS Board Game Night, hosted weekly text study for area pastors, celebrated the Reformation, held a church work day, participated in a confirmation retreat, hosted a FAN Cluster meeting, financially helped support Faith Action Network.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS



PLEDGE 2018

This month we are being asked to prayerfully consider our commitment to Ballard First Lutheran and make a pledge of our time, talent and treasure for 2018. Each of us has unique gifts to bring to our community and our community is stronger for those gifts. In the past, I found 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 helpful in my discernment about what I will give:

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

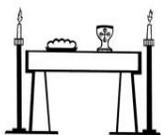
All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

What is the Spirit stirring in you to give in 2018? No matter what your gift is, please join me and turn in a pledge card.

In Peace, Ann Maki

SERVANT LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

Altar Care - Month of December: Rotating Teams



Acolytes

- December 3** Charlie Maris, Henry Orme
- December 10** Claire Fisher, Will Golden
- December 17** Charlie Maris
- December 24** Claire Fisher
- December 31** TBD

Assisting Minister

- December 3** Karin Swanson
- December 10** Karrin Daniels
- December 17** Nancy Fisher
- December 24** Scott Ingham
- December 31** TBD

Additional Servant Leaders for
Christmas Worship Services TBD



Communion Assistants

- December 3** Gunbjorg Ladstein, Kristen Wilson Weiberg
- December 10** Lisa Laxson, Kathy Johnson
- December 17** Susan Weber, Edna Peterson
- December 24** Kathy Johnson, Kristen Wilson Weiberg
- December 31** Joan Peterson, Kim Peterson



Counters

- December 3** Laurie & Terry McGibbon, Ellen & Geoff Wall
- December 10** Sue Clauson, Kelly Fahlman
- December 17** Jan Holm, Ramona Leer
- December 24/25** Kris Breton, Juliet Dickens, Ken Mingeaud
- December 31** Tina Aure, Karen & Malcolm Unseth



Lectors

- December 3** Kristen Wilson Weiberg
- December 10** Edna Peterson
- December 17** Kathy Johnson
- December 24** TBD
- December 31** Sarah McFarland

Ushers

- December 3** Jenny Holm,
- December 10** Sherry Lemmer, Kim Peterson, Sylvia Vikingstad
- December 17** Laurie Fladhus & Eric Green, Jennifer & John Schwartz
- December 24** TBD
- December 31** Dave Hilmoe, Gunbjorg Ladstein, Marcia Nelson



Van Drivers

- December 3** Tina Aure
- December 10** Ray Gooch
- December 17** Dave Hilmoe
- December 24** Kim Peterson
- December 31** Tina Aure

I CARE FOR DECEMBER



I CARE SUNDAY WILL BE DECEMBER 17TH IN SUPPORT OF THE BALLARD FOOD BANK. Each week, on average, the Ballard Food Bank serves more than 1,200 individuals at the food bank, bringing food to over 230 students in 15 public schools through the Weekend Food For Kids program, and delivering groceries to 100+ homebound clients in their Home Delivery program.

Ballard Food Bank's mission is to bring food and hope to our neighbors...because there can be enough for everyone. Providing access to nutritious foods through direct food service is at the core of their mission. Individuals and families who find themselves living below the poverty level must have their needs met.

LYONS



You're invited to the LYONS' Stay at Home Tea!

You are invited to the LYONS Stay at Home Tea! Instead of inviting you to another fundraising event during this busy time, we're inviting you to relax, have a cup of tea, and consider giving to Lutheran Youth of North Seattle. This year's funds will go toward our trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston. Envelopes with tea bags and a letter from us will be available after worship through the end of the year.

December Events:

Sunday, December 3: The Great Christmas Cookie Bake Off
(All LYONS)

Sunday December 10: Middle School Christmas Party

Sunday December 17-18: High School Christmas Lock-In

Great ways to connect, find event details, and learn more!

Website: roaringlyons.org

Facebook: Lutheran Youth of North Seattle

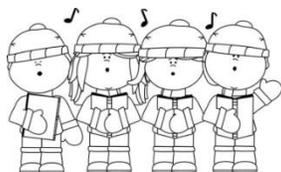
Instagram: [roaring_lyons](https://www.instagram.com/roaring_lyons)

STEPPING STONES



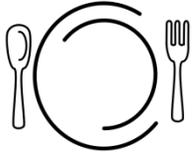
Faith is not a one-time thing. Faith is a lifetime thing. It consists of many "stepping stones" along life's journey. Bearing that in mind, Sunday school and confirmation students will soon be introduced to "stepping stones of faith." These recent months, Pastor Erik has been tumbling rocks into gemstones. As young people learn about the Christian faith, they will be given "stepping stones" in worship as we celebrate new learnings and steps along faith's pathway. The first stepping stones will be given on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, as young people celebrate participation in Advent activities and learnings this fall. In the new year, stepping stones will be given in celebration of learning about the Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, and other important expressions of the Christian faith.

FROM THE CHILDCARE CENTER



It's hard to believe that Christmas is literally 'around the corner'! We'll have our annual Christmas Program, where all but the infants perform, on December 15th at 6pm in the sanctuary. It's always a nice event with families attending, and includes grandmas, grandpas, aunts and uncles, friends and neighbors! I love the beautifully decorated tree that adorns the sanctuary. It's my favorite part of the season, and becomes a favorite of the children's, throughout the years.

A joyful Christmas Season, Ms. Karen & Staff



Looking for a way to truly celebrate Christmas? *In response to the needs of the hungry multitudes, Jesus commands, "You give them something to eat!"*

Sunday Dinner continues to fill a need in our community, providing dinners on Sunday nights for our neighbors who are homeless or food insecure. **Ballard First is cooking and serving dinner on Christmas Eve.** Volunteering to help that day is a great way for you and your family to make Christmas special for those who may be alone and hungry.

Shifts are:

4:00 to 6:00 – prep & cooking

5:30 to 7:00 – greeter

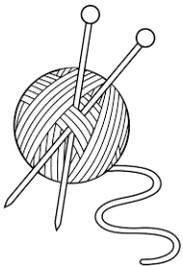
5:00 to 6:30 – set up & serving

6:30 to 8:00 – serve & clean up

If you'd like to help on December 24th, please contact Karrin Daniels at karrindaniels@msn.com

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

THE BALLARD FOOD BANK IS IN NEED of items to help stock the Hygiene Bar for our neighbors: toilet paper, travel-size toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner. **Thank you!**



NYER KNITTERS DECEMBER GATHERING Friday, December 8th

We will be collecting hats and scarves to give away at Sunday Dinners and Compass Housing, so bring your finished or in-work projects!

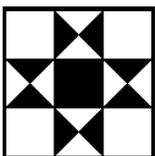
Non-knitters or crocheters also welcome, we can provide tips on getting started, or you can just kibitz.

Stop by anytime between 6-8 PM for knitting, crocheting, and snacks.

Redpath home - 8050 18th Ave NW

Questions? Call or text Judy Redpath at [206-960-7365](tel:206-960-7365).

Don't worry, if you haven't had time to knit anything.
Please come and bring purchased hats, scarves or socks!



EVENING MISSION QUILTING will not meet in December but will resume Monday, January 8th at 7pm.

CELEBRATING THE REFORMATION WITH MARTIN!



Lutherpalooza, Luther-rama, Lutheravaganza!!

Celebrating the 500th birthday
of the Reformation at

BFL's Trivia Night



The Hanging of the Greens and Tree Decorating!

The annual "hanging of the greens" will be Saturday, December 2nd, beginning at 9:00am. All are welcome to help us decorate for the Advent and Christmas season.



Julefest

The 38th annual "JULEFEST" Celebration is set for SUNDAY, December 3rd at BFL. The festivities begin with a potluck dessert hour at 6:00 pm. Featured will be the traditional "Julegrøt" (Christmas porridge) and your favorite holiday specialties. We move to the sanctuary for a musical program featuring a Christmas Chorus. (If you would like to join the Chorus, we will rehearse some simple 3 or 4-part harmony Christmas music beginning at 5:00 pm.) Following the program, we will dance around the Juletre and sing many more great Scandinavian carols. Everyone is Velkommen!

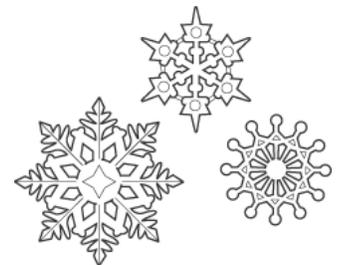
A Caroling We Will Go! December 10h



It has become an Advent tradition to bring the gift of music and fellowship to the homebound members of our faith community during a Sunday in December. This year, our annual Christmas Caroling Party will be held on Sunday, December 10th, beginning at 4:00pm. We will meet in Haavik Hall, then head off to sing at a few locations in Ballard before circling back to church for a chili supper. Make your plans to join us and sign up on the bulletin board in Haavik Hall if you are willing to bring a pot of chili or a plate of cookies to share.

Advent/Christmas Celebration for All

All are welcome to the annual day time Christmas gathering which is planned for Wednesday, December 13th in Haavik Hall beginning at 1:00pm. Make your plans to be present for a festive afternoon of desserts, carols, and social time with friends. If you need transportation, please call the church office that day by 10am.



Poinsettias for Christmas



This Christmas, we will be purchasing poinsettias to adorn our worship space. If you would like to purchase one in memory of or in thanksgiving for someone, please contact the church office. The suggested donation is \$10.00 and the deadline is Tuesday, December 19th.