

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

2006 NW 65TH STREET SEATTLE, WA 98117

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 Lower Social Hall Wednesdays: Dec. 5, Dec. 12, and Dec. 19 6pm Soup Supper + + + 7pm Worship

Join us as we celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child December 24th Manger Service and Live Nativity at 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship and Holy Communion at 11:00 p.m.

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

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

BALLARD BLESSINGS December 2018

+ 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 coummunity 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
<u>pastorerik@bflcs.org</u>
Pastor Elise Scott
<u>pastorelise@bflcs.org</u>
Church Administrator: Cindy Jackson
<u>office@bflcs.org</u>
Caretaker: Matt Horton
Treasurer: Julie Millet
Organist: Ed Egerdahl
Minister of Music:
Molly Barnes
<u>barnesma@plu.edu</u>
Accompanist: Jim Fisher

SFL Childcare Center - 206-784-1307 Director: Karen Hutchison

 LYONS ~ 206-706-5997
 www.roaringlyons.org
 Director: Bryant Williams
 Program Assistant: Megan Hundley

Secretary: Emily Olsoy
Secretary: Emily Olsoy

Section 2017 Secti

Childcare: Karin Swanson Facilities: Tina Aure Finance: Kris Breton Personnel: Susan Clauson

Secouncil At-Large Reps Lauren Jensen Edna Peterson

Dear Friends,

I grew up reading comic books. They fueled my lifelong love of reading. I still pop into my neighborhood comics shop from time to time. So, when the news broke last month that Stan Lee, the creator of so many Marvel comic book heroes, had died, it got my attention. I wasn't the only one. From obituaries to blog posts to radio news and interview shows to editorial tributes, his death caused far more reflection than I would have expected. I didn't realize that so many people believed him to have been so important.

What made him so special? What I heard in people's reflections was that he wrote characters who were human. Yes, they could do amazing things, but they had flaws and struggles just like everyone else. Iron Man did not only have an alter-ego in Tony Stark. He also had an outsized ego. Spider-Man's alter ego, Peter Parker was constantly abused by his boss and had a hard time making friends. Bruce Banner turned into the Incredible Hulk because he had massive anger issues. People could relate to heroes like that.

The hero who always left me feeling a little cold was not a Stan Lee creation. It was Superman. As I saw it, he was just too capable. He was more like a god than a superhero. All-powerful, he was faster and stronger than everyone else. All-seeing, he could see through buildings with his x-ray vision. Able to turn up anywhere and be ever-present, he could fly wherever he wanted to go. He could even leave earth and soar into the heavens. I know that he was vulnerable to kryptonite, a mineral from his home planet that could sap him of his power or make him sick or even cause him to die. But he always overcame even that. Because his power was so great, I felt an emotional distance from Superman that I didn't experience with other comic book heroes. "Up, up, and away!" he would cry before flying off to another rescue mission. Who talks like that?

Superman just wasn't that special. Even his love life was tedious! Watching Lois Lane fawn all over Superman was not unlike watching the head cheerleader flirt with the captain of the football team. He was too perfect.

But Superman had a saving grace. It was his alter-ego, Clark Kent. He was unlike all of the other heroes I tended to follow. Bruce Wayne put on the cape and cowl and became Batman, "the Dark Knight." Tony Stark encased himself in impressive iron armor and became Iron Man, "the Golden Avenger." Peter Parker dressed up like a human spider and became the Amazing Spider-Man, "the Web-Slinger." But Superman, "The Man of Steel," "The Son of Tomorrow," put on a pair of spectacles and a suit and tie and became Clark Kent, the mild-mannered reporter.

When Superman appeared on the scene, people waved flags and cheered. It was as if they worshiped him. But Clark was exposed to people when Superman was not around. He was often teased and a lot of people - Lois included - didn't take him very seriously.

FROM THE PASTOR cont.

You can probably see where I am going with this. When we think of God, it is not uncommon for us to use descriptive words such as "all-powerful," "ever present," "all seeing," and "all knowing." In other words, we think of someone who is a lot like Superman and not much at all like Clark Kent.

But the one who comes at Christmas and the one who goes all the way to the cross is a lot more like Clark Kent and a lot less like Superman. The Christ child will be described not as super-human, but as "tender and mild." He will not teach that the mighty will inherit the earth, but those who are "meek."

Because she was perpetually trying to impress him, Superman also saw Lois at her best. But Clark, her co-worker, was exposed to all of the dimensions of her personality. She hurt him on more than one occasion. To her way of thinking, Superman was "a real man." Clark was mousy.

It doesn't make sense that someone as powerful and handsome as Superman would want to disguise himself and inhabit the world of Clark Kent. And it doesn't make sense that he would choose to love the people who so often fail to reciprocate it. Clark Kent's greatest superpower is to be exposed to the world's ugliness and cruelty through both co-workers and global events and to love those people anyway.

I believe that Superman hid his powers so that Clark Kent - his true self - could be on display.

I also believe that God possesses the powers we often ascribe to Superman. All-powerful. Able to preside over the heavens. Allknowing. Ubiquitous, able to turn up anywhere. But, more than anything else, I believe that God has put all of those things aside so that we can behold God's true self. He's there in the manger, dispensing with invulnerability for vulnerability.

The one we worship did not come to impress us. God's true self came to love us.

Merry Christmas, Erik

VICAR SARAH

Dear Ballard First Friends,

It is with much gratitude that I write to you all. It doesn't seem possible that it has now been 4 months since I said goodbye to my Seattle home. I pray that you all are well.

I was so surprised and humbled to receive a notification from my seminary informing me of such a generous gift that came toward my expenses for the year from BFL. What an incredible act of generosity from all of you. Thank you for your gifts and your prayers as I move through my final year of seminary in Chicago. I talk about you all often in classes and conversations with friends. I continue to be more and more in awe of the incredible experience I had on internship, which would not have been possible without each of you.

I want to tell you a little bit about how this year is going so that you might know how your gift is being put to use. I am currently in five classes (perhaps not the best idea in retrospect, but I'm getting through!): Pentateuch, God Suffering and Evil, Liturgical Theology, Public Church 2 (our senior capstone class), and a travel seminar to the Parliament of the World's Religions in Toronto. Your gift has helped cover books and travel expenses for these courses. I'm working this year at a Lutheran church here in Chicago, Wicker Park Lutheran Church as their vicar, as well as with a Center for Christian Muslim Engagement here at my seminary, doing some event planning and outreach.

For the third year now, my class has appointed me as social chair, and so when I'm not working, I'm usually finding ways for our class to get together and enjoy one another's company. It is impossible to top the planning spirit of BFL's 500 Reformation party, however. You all know how to throw a party!

I am enjoying living in an apartment on campus with my newly adopted goldendoodle, Winston. He and I have had some adventures in the two months he's been with me, and I look forward to many more as we continue some much needed dog school classes. Your gift covered the first semester's rent for my apartment, which is such a blessing!

In just a few weeks, I will have my final interview with the South Carolina candidacy committee where, God-willing, I will be approved and eligible for a regional assignment and first call. I submit my placement paperwork in December and in February I find out where in the country I will be heading. I appreciate your continued prayers as I move closer toward receiving a placement and call.

Something I know to be true is that I would not be where I am now without each of you. You have helped mold and shape me; your stories and ministry as a church have taught me so much. It was a huge gift and blessing to be among you for a year. I love to tell people about my people in Seattle. Thank you for being who you are and for letting me be with you as your vicar. Thank you for supporting me even still with your financial assistance and with your prayers. I give so much thanks for you.

God be with you all, and continue to work in you to be a blessing to all you encounter. Peace, Vicar Sarah

God knows how to disarm the world

The Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop, NWWA Synod From the December 2018 edition of *The Spirit*

Friends, we are living in some disturbing times where violence, bullying, threats and hostility abound. The world can be downright mean. No

one is spared - not even mothers and children.

How is one to respond in times like these? Do you just duck and seek cover? Do you remain silent? Do confront those who are the source?

What many have chosen to do is to up their security systems. It is one of America's fastest growing industries. Others choose to literally arm themselves. While still others practice what is called situational awareness. It is about being alert to your surroundings and trying to take the necessary precautions.

On a recent trip to Chicago I heard a wonderful story from one of our Lutheran Bishops about Munib Younan, Bishop Emeritus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. (He served as bishop from January 1998 to January 2018.)

My colleague was traveling with Munib when they crossed through a Check Point between Palestine and Israel. They were met by a security guard armed with an assault rifle who was anything but kind to Munib requiring him to get out of the car before he could proceed.

What Munib did is unimaginable to me. During the interrogation Munib said to the guard, "I don't think you like your job." Obviously, this comment took the guard by surprise. It didn't stop Munib. He asked the guard about his family and discovered he had a girlfriend. Munib increased the level of empathy for the guard's difficult position. Before

long the guard put down his assault rifle and wanted to know who this man was.

Munib Younan is one of the most disarming people you will ever meet. He feels so deeply that he has been freed in Christ that he experiences very little fear in what for many is a very frightening place in the world. Everywhere he travels, Munib engages people with this same disarming charm - confronting hostility by revealing the fear that lies behind it.

When I grow up I want to be like him.

We are entering the Advent Season and Christmas. It is a time when we prepare ourselves to worship the Prince of Peace who was born in the same land as Munib. How brilliant of God to enter the world as a baby.

I know of no power greater than that of newborn. A newborn can quickly take over an entire household. They have the power to make macho men break into tears. They attract admiring looks wherever they go, unleashing a power of endearment that is hard to resist.

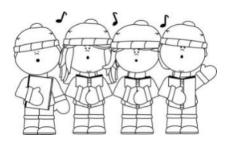
Yes, our God knows how to disarm the world. This God baby grew up teaching others to turn the other cheek. This baby who became an adult stood up to the likes of Herod and Pilate without batting an eye.

Yes, this Jesus, the Prince of Peace, has come into the world to disarm it. To disarm the hostility and meanness. To create a world where the stranger is welcomed, and all are accepted. This Jesus has come to face the fear of the world and replace it with peace.

Might this Season indeed be a season where each day we pray more fervently: Come Lord Jesus!



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 14th 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.

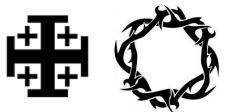
A joyful Christmas Season, Ms. Karen & Staff

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IN DECEMBER

- Dec 2: "The Heart of Islam; the Pain and Promise of Being a Muslim American" (Pastor Terry Kyllo and Friend, *Neighbors in Faith*)
- Dec 9: "Living Jesus' Call to Love our Neighbors: discussion and brainstorming" (Pastor Terry Kyllo, *Neighbors in Faith*)

Dec 16: Introducing the Labyrinth (Ann Maki)

THE CROSS AND CROWN ROOM



WHEREAS the Ballard First Lutheran Church Lower Social Hall now features a polished concrete floor; and

WHEREAS said floor features a prayer labyrinth with a Jerusalem Cross at the center; and

WHEREAS the Lower Social Hall features stained glass windows from Crown Lutheran Church; and

WHEREAS Crown Lutheran Church of Ballard has long since closed and its facilities have been replaced by townhouses; and

WHEREAS Former members of Crown Lutheran who have joined Ballard First Lutheran Church have blessed us richly; and

WHEREAS Crown Lutheran Church is gone but should not be forgotten; and

WHEREAS Christ suffered on a cross and Christian theology proclaims both God's solidarity and community with humanity as evidenced by Christ's death on a *cross* and God's victory over sin, death and the power of the devil accomplished on the *cross;* and

WHEREAS Christ bore a crown of thorns and Christian theology has historically employed the *crown* as both a symbol of Christ's victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil **<u>and</u>** as a reminder that we are to continue to strive for a world that reflects God's reign of mercy, peace, forgiveness and justice;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the church basement no longer be referred to as the "Lower Social Hall"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ballard First Lutheran Church basement be named "The Cross and Crown Room."

Adopted by the Ballard First Lutheran Church Council at its October meeting.

SERVANT LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

Altar Care - Month of December: Rotating Teams



Assisting Minister

December 2 Brett Hagen

December 9 Erin Schadt

December 16 Karin Swanson

- December 23 Chris Bloomquist
- December 30 Veronica Redpath

Communion Assistants

| December 2 | Kathy Johnson, Susan Weber |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| December 9 | Edna Peterson, Kristen Wilson Weiberg |
| December 16 | Monica Scott, |
| December 23 | Joan Peterson, Kim Peterson |
| December 30 | Andrea Olsoy, |
| | |

Counters

| December 2 | Jan Holm, Ramona Leer |
|-------------|---|
| December 9 | Kris Breton, Juliet Dickens, Ken Mingeaud |
| December 16 | Sue Clauson, Kelly Fahlman |
| December 23 | Tina Aure, Karen & Malcolm Unseth |
| December 30 | Laurie & Terry McGibbon, Ellen & Geoff Wall |

<u>Lectors</u>

| December 2 | Karrin Daniels |
|-------------|----------------|
| December 9 | Gordon Kramer |
| December 16 | Kathy Johnson |
| December 23 | Keita Horn |
| December 30 | Glenn Hare |



Ushers

| December 2 | Jenny Holm, Jeff Power, Glenn Hare, Amelia Hare |
|-------------|--|
| December 9 | David Austin, Laurie Austin, Farid Chouery, Kevin Severud |
| December 16 | Gunbjorg Ladstein, Marcia Nelson, Jim Walker |
| December 23 | Sylvia Vikingstad, Sherry Lemmer, Kim Peterson |
| December 30 | Laurie Fladhus, Eric Green, John Schwartz, Jennifer Schwartz |



Van Drivers

| December 2 | Don Torcaso | | |
|-------------|---------------|--|--|
| December 9 | Bruce Webster | | |
| December 16 | Ray Gooch | | |
| December 23 | TBD | | |
| December 30 | Tina Aure | | |

Additional Servant Leaders for Christmas Worship Services TBD





I CARE FOR DECEMBER



NIEGHBORS IN FAITH. Neighbors in Faith (NIF) is an effort undertaken by Christians and Muslims to encourage neighborly relationships between Muslims and people of all faith and non-faith traditions so that together we can work for a more peaceful world. This ministry is supported by both Muslims and Christians and is authorized by the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA and the Southwest Washington Synod of the ELCA. NIF will operate throughout western Washington.

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY



EVENING MISSION QUILTING will meet on Monday, December 3rd at 7:00 in the lower social hall.



THIS ADVENT WE WILL BE COLLECTING SOCKS FOR THE BALLARD URBAN REST STOP. The Urban Rest Stop provides a clean, safe and welcoming facility where individuals and families experiencing homelessness can come and use restrooms, laundry facilities and shower. <u>New socks make such a</u>

difference. You can bring socks to Haavik Hall during Advent worship and on Sundays.

HOLDEN VILLAGE IN 2019



Everybody had a memorable time at Holden Village last August.

We are scheduling 2019 Holden week for July 20th to July 26th. Watch for more details. Please let the office know if you are interested in going, <u>office@bflcs.org</u>.

ONCE AGAIN BFL GOES TO HOLDEN!



Holden Village is a unique Lutheran retreat center situated in the rugged beauty of the Cascade Mountains. Guests enjoy opportunities for alpine hiking, rich learning, arts and crafts, quiet conversation, boisterous games, stimulating Bible study, and creative worship.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER - KOINONIA



SEAHAWKS WATCH PARTY AT FIGUREHEAD BREWING -

Sunday, December 16th @ 1:05 p.m.: Join us after church for an informal watch party at Figurehead as the Seahawks take on the 49ers. We will have snacks to share and you can purchase drinks from Figurehead. All ages are welcome - Figurehead is kid friendly!!! Figurehead is located near Fishermens Terminal at 4001 21st Avenue W. Questions? Monica Scott - (803) 944-7008 or <u>monicakscott@gmail.com</u>.

BALLARD FIRST FRIDAYS AT TAKI'S MAD GREEK - Friday, December 7th @ 5:00 p.m.: Meet up for an informal, dutch-treat dinner. Each month, we announce a different restaurant where we gather to enjoy a meal and fellowship with Ballard First Lutheran on the First Friday of the month. Our next gathering will take place on Friday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m. at Taki's Mad Greek (1471 NW 85th Street). No need to RSVP, just show up and look for the table with the BFL sign! Save the date: Friday, January 4th at Crown Hill Broiler. Questions? Monica Scott - (803) 944-7008 or monicakscott@gmail.com.

LYONS



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 summer trips to two camps in our region. Envelopes with tea bags and a letter from us will be available after worship through the end of the year. You may also donate online at<u>roaringlyons.org/donate</u>

WEDNESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL - 2:30-5PM - BALLARD FIRST LUTHERAN

Join us Wednesday afternoons for a time to hang out, work on homework and enjoy some snacks on us. All friends are welcome to join.

HIGH SCHOOL LYONS @ WILD LIGHTS

5:00-8:00pm, Sunday, December 16th, St John United

Join us at St John United for dinner and games before heading over to the zoo to check out the lights! We will end our night together back at SJU, warming up with some hot cocoa.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

The Hanging of the Greens and Tree Decorating! The annual "hanging of the greens" will be Saturday, December 1st, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

All are welcome to help us decorate for the Advent and Christmas season.



The 40th annual JULEFEST CELEBRATION "FUN FOR ALL AGES!"

GATHER – We will gather in Haavik Hall BFL, Sunday, December 2, 2018 starting at 6:00 pm approx. duration: 90 minute.

SHARE – We will share potluck finger food and desserts finishing with traditional Christmas porridge "Julegrøt" while being serenaded by Conan's McLemore's student musicians.

LEARN – We will explore Scandinavian Advent/Christmas traditions and their history.

LISTEN – We will hear a traditional Norwegian fairytale with the ominous beginning, "It was a dark and cold Christmas Eve......"

SING – We will translate through original Scandinavian Christmas carols, hear them demonstrated by Vivian Evans and then sing along.

 $\ensuremath{\textbf{DANCE}}$ – We will dance around the decorated Christmas tree using some of the carols we have just learned.

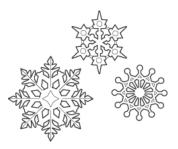
DEPART – We leave well entertained and in a proper Advent/Christmas mood.



A Caroling We Will Go! December 9th 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 9th, 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, December12th 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.





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 down to the lower social hall for a meal and celebrate Advent as we explore the new labyrinth.

On **December 5th**, **December 12^h** and **December 19th**, soup will be served in the Lower Social Hall from 6:00-m to 7:00pm. Worship begins at 7:00pm.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD FOLLOWING WORSHIP to vote on the Church Council's proposal to issue a new Letter of Call to Pastor Mary Elise Scott. Currently, Pastor Scott is serving a half-time, two-year term call that will expire in early 2019. The vote in December will be to extend a half-time, open-ended call to Pastor Scott.

POINSETTIAS



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 or fill out an order form during Sunday worship. The suggested donation is \$10.00 and the deadline for ordering is Tuesday, December 18th.

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 Other Income Total Income | \$20,055.70 \$5,088.67 \$25,144.37 | \$24,666.67 \$8,937.50 \$33,604.17 | \$230,061.79 \$184,466.16 \$414,527.95 | \$253,866.70 \$143,625.00 \$397,491.70 | (\$23,804.91) \$40,841.16 \$17,036.25 | | | |
| Expenses | \$47,839.16 | \$42,139.37 | \$432,201.23 | \$445,714.70 | (\$13,513.47) | | | |
| Surplus / <mark>(Loss)</mark> | (\$22,694.79) | (\$8,535.20) | (\$17,673.28) | (\$48,223.00) | \$30,549.72 | | | |
| | • •• • •• ••• | | | | | | | |

Cash Balance\$37,701.49Savings Balance\$ 287,771.59

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, Ballard Little League and NAMI, hosted the Sunday Dinner program, provided space for AA groups, LYONS, hosted weekly text study for area pastors, financially helped support Lutheran Counseling Network.