

**+ 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 in February**

**Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Interfaith Advocacy Day – Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Lent Soup Suppers at 6pm - Worship at 7pm**

**Wednesdays, February 21<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup>**

# BALLARD BLESSINGS

## February 2018

### † BALLARD FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

2006 NW 65th Street, Seattle, WA 98117 • 206.784.1306 • [www.bflcs.org](http://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](mailto:pastorerik@bflcs.org)

Pastor Elise Scott

[pastorelise@bflcs.org](mailto:pastorelise@bflcs.org)

Vicar Sarah Derrick

[intern@bflcs.org](mailto:intern@bflcs.org)

Church Administrator: Cindy Jackson

[office@bflcs.org](mailto:office@bflcs.org)

Caretaker: Matt Horton

Treasurer: Julie Millet

Organist: Ed Egerdahl

Minister of Music:

Molly Barnes

[barnesma@plu.edu](mailto:barnesma@plu.edu)

Renewal: Jessica Zimmerle

[renewal@bflcs.org](mailto:renewal@bflcs.org)

Accompanist: Jim Fisher

#### ☞ BFL Childcare Center ☞

206-784-1307

Director: Karen Hutchison

#### ☞ LYONS ☞

206-706-5997

[www.roaringlyons.org](http://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 ☞

Chris Bloomquist

Kim Peterson

February 1, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

I can't recall a time when so many people have consistently talked about how they feel that things have gone so horribly wrong. Make no mistake. The sentiment is not a new one. All of my adult, there has always been someone to assure me that the world is going to hell in a hand basket. What is new is not so much the sentiment, but that the sentiment is so *pervasive*. I cannot recall a time when I have felt such an all-encompassing sense of what looks a lot to me like grief.

Equally pervasive is a new universal attempt to make sense of it. The question is posed in a variety of ways. "How did it happen?" "What went wrong?" "How did we ever arrive at this point?" Or sometimes it is not so much a question as it is an observation: "This is a new normal." I am not going to pretend to explain it. There are plenty of essays out there written by people much more insightful than me explaining HOW IT ALL CAME TO THIS.

Ultimately, it will be up to historians, sociologists, and political scientists to make sense of that. In the meantime, what we in the church have to offer is a faith perspective. Faith recognizes that life is a pilgrimage. Whatever this moment in time is, faith teaches me that this is not the end of the road. In fact, what I prize about Christianity is that faith is not even the destination. Faith *is* the road we travel. And I am not being particularly original when I say that. The earliest Christians did not call themselves "the Church." They called themselves "the Way." So, when I submit to you that to be Christian is to be on a pilgrimage, on a "way," I am merely drafting off of those first followers of Jesus who started us down this road in the first place.

But what do we do when in our pilgrimage we encounter so much grief along nearly every bend in the road? This coming Lent, you are invited to join us each Wednesday as we continue our faith journey under the theme, **The Pilgrimage from Death to Abundant Life; Moving Beyond the Rage and Fear of Our Times.**

## *FROM THE PASTOR continued*

Each week, we will gather between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. for a simple soup meal. From there, we will move into the sanctuary and consider the different places our faith has we will move into the sanctuary and consider the different places our faith has brought us and as we also begin to stir and move confidently forward to the new places our faith will bring us.

**February 14 (Ash Wednesday): From Wilderness to Words**

**February 21 (Week of Lent 1): From Denial to Awareness**

**February 28 (Week of Lent 2): From Suffering to Joy**

**March 7 (Week of Lent 3): From Alienation to Companionship**

**March 14 (Week of Lent 4): From Persecution to Beloved Community**

**March 21 (Week of Lent 5): From Fear to Faith**

So, please. Come as you are. Bring your grief and remorse. Bring your shame and guilt. Bring your fears and dread. Bring your hopes and dreams. Together, we will find a way through.

In Christ's Abiding Love.

Erik

## *SUMMER TRIP TO HOLDEN VILLAGE*



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.

**Plans are being made for a group from Ballard First Lutheran to travel to Holden in early August (tentatively August 4-10).**

If you are interested, plan to come to an informational meeting after worship on Sunday, February 11. If you are unable to make the meeting, please see Pastor Erik or Pastor Elise.



## *PASTORAL ACTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY*

Committal Service

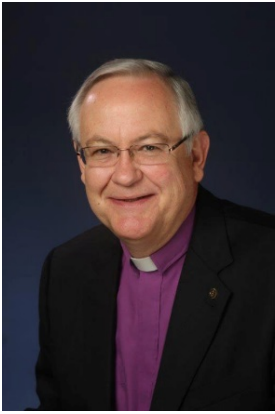
Karen Ormbrek

January 20, 2018

## *I CARE FOR FEBRUARY*



I CARE SUNDAY WILL BE FEBRUARY 25TH in support of the family of Gustavo Valle through the Gustavo Valle Memorial Fund. Gustavo was one of the founders of Avivara, a Guatemala based nonprofit that supports school programs and gives educational scholarships to over 90 students in the central highlands of Guatemala. BFL members visited Guatemala on a service trip through Avivara in 2010. Gustavo died the end of December, 2017.



## **Respite Pastor**

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

The conversation took place at precisely the right time. Retired Pastor Mark Reitan offered to serve as a respite pastor, enabling a pastor and

congregation the necessary breathing room they needed. Mark's heart aches for pastors on whom the job takes a toll. Mark knew it would mean a lot to him if he could help another sister or brother.

There were a few conditions. He didn't want it to be long term – no more than two or three months. He knew there would be certain Sundays he wouldn't be available. He was only willing to preach and do critical pastoral care. (No committee meetings!) AND he wanted to do it pro bono, believing that God has been a wonderful provider for him and his family. The one exception is he would expect a mileage reimbursement.

Mark is like many of our retired pastors. He still loves to do pastoral ministry. He finds meaning in trying to help a faith community realize their strengths. He loves to preach the gospel and is so clear about our God who provides. He is a living example of what he believes.

No sooner had we had the conversation, when just the right setting turned up. We had a congregation that was small in size and struggling financially. A separation agreement between the pastor and the congregation had been reached providing the compensation the pastor would need to reach retirement. However, the congregation did not have the capacity to resource the separation agreement and provide for a part-time pastor. This is where Mark stepped in and so graciously cared for the congregation for three months. The congregation understood that there would be Sundays when Mark couldn't be there, and they managed to do well with supply pastors.

This was an amazing win-win-win situation for pastor, church, and synod. All because of a pastor's desire to still do meaningful ministry - and meaningful it was. Mark was able to love up this congregation, affirm their strengths, and restore in them a greater confidence that God provides for those who place their trust in God.

This changed the conversation from "should we just close our doors" to "let's reimagine our future."

Mark was able to share with them the work that he and his spouse, Elaine, are doing in Tanzania to honor their daughter's life and death. This proved to be an inspiration to the congregation and expanded their sense of the church's global ministry. When the time came for Mark to conclude his ministry, the congregation offered up a gift for this ministry as a sign of their deep appreciation for Mark's time among them.

I respect and admire Pastor Reitan for his love of the gospel and his desire to continue to live it out in ways that bring blessing to his own life and to those he serves.

These are not the easiest of times in which to do ministry and the truth is there are so many pastors and congregations that could benefit from a time of respite care. I don't doubt a few of you reading this article are saying, "I am that pastor," or "we might be that congregation."

While I know that all retired pastors are not in the position to serve in this capacity, my prayer is that there might be a few who would consider offering up their gifts. I know pastors well into their 80's who are vital, passionate about the Gospel, and who could do some wonderful ministry. Thank you Pastor Mark Reitan for modeling what it means to be a faithful servant of God and inspiring others to consider how God might have a short jog in store for them.

# FINANCIAL HISTORY REPORT

## December Financial Report General Fund

	December Actual	December Budget	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance
Envelope/Loose Giving	\$36,029.46	\$28,230.41	\$303,922.09	\$299,316.00	\$4,606.09
Other Income	\$62,177.63	\$58,025.07	\$253,050.38	\$208,300.00	\$44,750.38
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$98,207.09</b>	<b>\$86,255.48</b>	<b>\$556,972.47</b>	<b>\$507,616.00</b>	<b>\$49,356.47</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$85,022.25</b>	<b>\$40,204.98</b>	<b>\$696,451.41</b>	<b>\$509,508.20</b>	<b>\$186,943.21</b>
<b>Surplus / (Loss)</b>	<b>\$13,184.84</b>	<b>\$46,050.50</b>	<b>(\$139,478.94)</b>	<b>(\$1,892.20)</b>	<b>(\$137,586.74)</b>

**Cash Balance** \$52,718.57

**Savings Balance** \$286,294.76

This year'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 December, 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 and the annual Christmas program for Childcare friends and family, celebrated Advent and Christmas, transported members to Sunday worship, caroling and the PLU Concert in our church van, provided space for Julefest, the Market Street Singers, Sunnmorslaget av, AA groups, LYONS, Renewal, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Ballard Little League, hosted weekly text study for area pastors, held a blood drive, financially helped support the Ballard Food Bank.

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS



In early February I took a drive to Rockport State Park. The weather was the usual February, gray and threatening rain as I headed north intending to turn east at Burlington. Instead, the GPS took me off the freeway at Arlington, several miles south of Burlington. I hadn't explored this area, so I followed the route directed by the GPS. As I wandered east on Highway 530, I alternated between enjoying the countryside and getting anxious about how long it was taking to get to my destination. The town of Oso surprised me and I

slowed down in awe at the vastness of the Oso landslide area. By the time I reached Darrington, I still had 19 miles to go and my ire peaked. I wanted to be there, already! I reminded myself that it will take the time it takes. Two and a half hours after leaving Ballard, I finally made it to the State Park.

After checking in with the Park Ranger, I headed to the ADA trail. The rain held off as I walked through the moss and lichen-covered old growth forest. The rains had been recent enough that water was dripping everywhere. It felt good to be in these woods and taking the time to photograph rain drops on the lichen and the lush moss. Soon it started to rain in earnest and I headed back to my car.

I came home via Burlington, glad that I had been routed off the freeway at Arlington on the way to the park. It turned out both routes took about the same amount of time.

This day-trip refreshed me. My focus had narrowed and getting out in nature expanded my field of vision. As we head into Lent, I plan to use the season to expand and sustain a wider frame of mind. I want to pay better attention to the connections and commitments I already have. I would like to engage in some sort of community action. The route through Lent may not be the one I intended and it may be slow, but the destination will be the same- Easter.

What route will you take this Lenten season on your way to Easter?

In Peace, Ann Maki

Altar Care - Month of February: TBD



Acolytes

February 4 TBD  
February 11 TBD  
February 18 TBD  
February 25 TBD

Assisting Minister

February 4 Nancy Fisher  
February 11 Scott Ingham  
February 18 Karrin Daniels  
February 25 Josh Jensen



Communion Assistants

February 4 Lauren Jensen, Marit Turner  
February 11 Kristen Wilson Weiberg, Kathy Johnson  
February 18 Leotagail Kramer, Edna Peterson  
February 25 Joan Peterson, Kim Peterson



Counters

February 4 Tina Aure, Karen & Malcolm Unseth  
February 11 Laurie & Terry McGibbon, Ellen & Geoff Wall  
February 18 Sue Clauson, Kelly Fahlman  
February 25 Jan Holm, Ramona Leer

Lectors

February 4 Keita Horn  
February 11 Tom Tocher  
February 18 Will Golden  
February 25 Glenn Hare



Ushers

February 4 Dave Hilmoe, Gunbjorg Ladstein, Marcia Nelson, Jim Walker  
February 11 Sylvia Vikingstad, Sherry Lemmer, Kim Peterson, Anders Weiberg  
February 18 Laurie Fladhus, Eric Green, John and Jennifer Schwartz  
February 25 Jenny Holm, Jeff Powers, Glenn Hare, Amelia Hare



Van Drivers

February 4 Dave Hilmoe  
February 11 Ray Gooch  
February 18 Tina Aure  
February 25 Kim Peterson



**A one-week, incredible opportunity!!**



Hopefully, this claim has snagged your attention. I want all of you to mark July 1-6 on your calendars. This is the week that the Special Olympics USA games will be held here in Seattle! Athletes from across the United States

will gather in Seattle to celebrate and unite through sports. There are hundreds of ways for you to be involved as a volunteer—serving meals, accompanying athletes, cheering in the stands—just to name a few. As a church, Ballard First will be getting involved to volunteer with the 2018 Seattle Games.

I was blessed with the opportunity to volunteer with the Malaysia delegation for the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles. So, to help get you excited for the opportunities that lie ahead for Ballard First this summer, I wanted to share a little bit of my reflections from a blog post following the 2015 games (This was published August 11, 2015):

“That evening, we welcomed team Malaysia to LA. 39 athletes and coaches made the long journey from Malaysia. Suddenly I was surrounded by the Malay language, of course talking all about the food I loved and the athletes' favorite foods. We journeyed together to our host town for the first couple days, Culver City, where we stayed to get acclimated to LA and take some time to prep for the games.

Once we moved from our host town into our respective lodging at USC and UCLA, the games began. I spent my days accompanying the team and cheering at the track, pool, bowling alley, soccer field, equestrian center, golf course, and bocce court. We dealt with questions and situations as they came up, but mostly my time was spent doing what I learned to do in Malaysia- being. It was a busy "being," as in some days I didn't necessarily have time for all my meals. I woke up early and went to bed late, but those 2 weeks were full of such joy. In our first days together, the Malaysia head coach, Mr. Jayasingh gave those of us volunteering with the Malaysia team a Special Olympics pin. He said, *'You're a part of this family. Whatever we do in the next 2 weeks, we do it together.'* It's funny when you think you are called somewhere for one thing, only to learn that something a little different is in store. I went to LA to help host the Malaysia team, but oddly enough I found myself being hosted and welcomed by team Malaysia, too. Jesus is sneaky like that, I think.

“Two weeks passed so quickly. Before I realized it, competitions were coming to an end, Malaysia was bringing in medals every day, and athletes were celebrating their incredible accomplishments as a team. Malaysia brought home a total of 21 medals from the games. It was an honor to have the opportunity to be a part of this worldwide event. Again, it was time to say goodbye.

“I left feeling full- full from good conversations, full from time spent with incredible, loving people, full from meeting Jesus in the faces and words of so many people. And while I arrived feeling tired and a little scared, I left having found rest. I was content and at peace in ways I hadn't been in so long. The camp I worked at in college had a hashtag one summer after I was gone, #TotalKairosMoment, to describe times when God's time and our time meet. I am one who finds myself looking to what's next often, almost always in a countdown mode of some sort. But there are times when I am pushed away from the countdown. What's next will come... later. But now, be present and aware of the ways God is actively at work in your midst.”

**If you are interested in volunteering with the Special Olympics US games July 1-6, 2018, please email me or talk to me at church. To learn more, visit [www.specialolympicsusagames.org](http://www.specialolympicsusagames.org) I can't wait to see how our time with these incredible athletes will change us for a lifetime!**



I am delighted to say that after a month and a half absence, due to brain tumor surgery and recovery time, we have our Ms. Cat back with us! We are so thankful for the doctors and the hospital who took great care of her throughout this time. The children are all happy to see her back at school, with one of our older children commenting, "I'm really glad Ms. Cat is back, she once was my teacher you know!" Welcome Back Ms. Cat!! Ms. Marina has been out of the country for two months, and we are glad to have her returning to work as well :)

For myself, it's been a fun time of connecting with the children, even more so than usual, while helping to fill in during the staff absences. I have had the pleasure of making numerous paper airplanes, telling stories that make the children laugh out loud, building robots with Tinker Toys, reading a seemingly endless number of books, and sharing in delightful conversations with these little ones. Times like these remind me of the reasons we are here taking care of God's children :)

Peace, Ms. Karen & Staff

MEMBERS PAGE ON BFL WEBSITE

The church website [www.bflcs.org](http://www.bflcs.org) includes a members section. The members section is intended to provide Ballard First Lutheran members extra information about the church that is not placed on our public website. Items posted will include documents such as Church Council minutes, governance documents, online church directory and annual reports. **You can also find a current (as of 1-31-18) congregation directory with corrections.**

The BFL Member Page can be found under the "Community" tab on the church website, <http://www.bflcs.org>. You will need a password to access this section. To receive the password, please email the office at [office@bflcs.org](mailto:office@bflcs.org) or call 206-784-1306.

IN GRATITUDE



*Thank you. Your financial gift (December ICare offering) supports individuals and families living in our community of Ballard, Magnolia, and Queen Anne. From working parents to a recently disabled individual, seniors who are living on Social Security to a young couple living out of their vehicle; we welcome all who turn to us for support. Every person who walks through our doors deserves to leave with a sense of hope. By partnering together to provide not only nutritious food but a trusted place to access basic needs, together, we are creating a vibrant, healthy community for all*

*Ballard Food Bank*

The red bin for Ballard Food Bank donations has been moved to Haavik Hall. Donations of non-perishable food and hygiene items are very welcomed.



**Interfaith Advocacy Day** Faith Action Network is sponsoring its annual Interfaith Advocacy Day (IFAD) at the state legislature on Tuesday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. This day brings the voice of compassion and justice to our elected leaders. **Don't miss this important day in Olympia!**

On Interfaith Advocacy Day, you will be able to:

- Join workshops that will break down the issues on FAN's 2018 Legislative Agenda
- Learn current best practices on how to advocate in today's legislature
- Learn how to prepare for briefings and hearings.
- **Meet with your legislator! Once you register, FAN will set up an appointment for you and others from your district**
- Lunch will be provided

**REGISTRATION: \$15.00 when paid in advance, and \$20.00 if you pay at the door.** Your registration fee helps to cover some of the cost of renting our meeting space, catering, and materials. **Contact us at [fan@fanwa.org](mailto:fan@fanwa.org) to register** or if you need a scholarship.

**LOCATION:** We will start the day at **The United Churches of Olympia**, 110 11th Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501.

**Ballard First will be taking the van to Olympia on that day. Make sure you have a "seat on the bus." Contact Kim Peterson at 206-789-7447.**

## LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Share your favorite soup at one of the Lenten soup suppers. You can sign up in Haavik Hall during coffee hour. Pick a Wednesday night – February 21<sup>st</sup>, February 28<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup>.



## BLESSING OF THE FLEET - 2018



This will be the 90<sup>th</sup> year of the Blessing of the Fleet. Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Fishermen's Terminal



**EVENING MISSION QUILTING** - will be meeting in the Lower Social Hall on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> from 7pm- 8:30pm.

Looking at the Lutheran World Relief page on mission quilts I came across this great description of our purpose~

*"Imagine the comfort that comes from a hug at the time when you need it most. That's the feeling you can share with an LWR Quilt. Through a simple combination of fabric and thread, you can reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope — you are not alone."*

Come join us – all you need to do is push a needle through cloth and tie a knot.

Questions: Call Sue at [206-334-8046](tel:206-334-8046)



### *Calling all movie fans!*

*The BFL movie club is hosting its ninth annual Oscar night party on Sunday March 4th. Marcia Nelson will once more host a potluck party, starting at 4:00 p.m. Popcorn and Oscar ballots will be provided.*

*6535 Seaview Avenue NW, Unit 601B.*

*Marcia's unit is in Building B, on the 6th floor*

*See you on the red carpet!*



#### VALENTINE SALE - EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE AND CHOCOLATE

Phoebe Circle will be selling Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate to benefit Lutheran World Relief on February 4th during coffee hour in Haavik Hall!