

**+ 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

Interfaith Advocacy Day – Thursday, February 14th

**See news about the 2019 Budget Challenge
in Pastor Erik's message!**

BALLARD BLESSINGS

February 2019

† 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

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Vicar Sarah Derrick

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Church Administrator: Cindy Jackson

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Caretaker: Matt Horton

Treasurer: Julie Millet

Organist: Ed Egerdahl

Minister of Music:

Molly Barnes

barnesma@plu.edu

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Accompanist: Jim Fisher

☞ 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: Karrin Daniels

Vice President: David Austin

Secretary: Bruce Webster

☞ Ministry Coordinators ☞

Childcare: Karin Swanson

Facilities: Tina Aure

Finance: Kris Breton

Personnel: Susan Clauson

☞ Council At-Large Reps ☞

Chris Bloomquist

Kim Peterson

February 1, 2019

“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

- Jesus

Dear Friends in Christ,

Prepare to get up close and personal with the Book of Luke! Lessons from this beloved Gospel will be appointed frequently in 2019. That means you should get ready to visit some of the church’s most treasured stories: The Good (and merciful!) Samaritan, the Prodigal Son (and his forgiving father and wounded, resentful brother), and Zacchaeus will all make appearances. It also means we should get ready for delightful, surprising, and even frightening imagery: We will be invited to think of God as a mother hen who gathers her brood of chicks under her wings; and we will hear how Jesus climbs a mountain and is “dazzlingly transfigured” in the presence of two ancient figures who arrive on the scene, Moses and Elijah; and we will hear how Jesus brings fire on earth. Immersing ourselves in the Gospel of Luke means we should get ready to encounter real, three-dimensional human beings such as Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, who tenderly anoints Jesus for burial; and an obsessive woman who turns her house upside down for the sake of finding one little, lost coin.

This year-long relationship with Luke means that we will have to prepare ourselves for one other eventuality. Or maybe I should say that we will need to *brace* ourselves for another eventuality. Because if we are going to spend time with Luke’s Gospel, there is no getting around it. We are going to have to think about money. Before this year is out, Jesus will challenge us to give up our possessions, invite poor people to our tables, decide whether we are going to serve God or wealth (apparently Jesus feels strongly that we can’t do both), and think seriously about what it is that we consider our true treasure (Hint: According to Jesus, the answer starts with “G” and rhymes with “odd”; and doesn’t start with “m” and rhyme with “honey”). And, if Jesus’ very direct approach doesn’t work, then he will try to get under our skin with stories like that troublesome one about “the Rich Man and Lazarus.”

Luke doesn’t exactly “bury the lead” when it comes to wealth. He kick starts his book with the announcement that it will be a poor, peasant girl who will give birth to the savior of the world. Then, upon hearing this news, she breaks into song about our God who “fills the hungry with good things” and “sends the rich away empty.” And, just in case we still aren’t getting the point, we will end 2019 hearing once again from Luke that this savior is born in the abject poverty of a manger, an animals’ feed trough.

FROM THE PASTOR *continued*

But, it's the darndest thing. Luke's Gospel talks about money more than any other **AND** (at least for my money) Luke's Gospel is the most joyful and even most humorous of the Gospels. When Jesus says, "Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:25), it does shock the system a bit. But, if you think about it, you have to admit that it's a pretty good line and the image is kind of funny, too.

There is no question that Jesus challenges us to make sacrifices. He wants us to sacrifice some of our time and our talent for the sake of God's purposes for the world. And he doesn't stop there. He also wants us to sacrifice some of our money, too. But there is one thing that he neither asks nor expects us to sacrifice: our joy. Jesus not only insists that we rejoice, he even charges us to "leap for joy," suggesting that it is something for which we should strive (Luke 6:23)!

I can't prove this in writing, but I just know it's true: There is much joy in giving! One of my all-time favorite church council meetings took place last month during our 2019 budget meeting! As they worked to assemble a faithful 2019 budget, council members realized that, in order to meet that budget, congregational giving would need to increase this year. And, spontaneously, in their last act as the church council of 2018, your leaders decided to issue a challenge. They resolved to make a sacrificial gift at the start of this new year. Each council member determined to give a special gift to the church above and beyond what they have personally budgeted for 2019 as a way of inviting and, yes, challenging each member of the congregation to do the same.

As a council, they have promised to match the first \$7,600.00 that comes from the congregation in the form of a special gift beyond their regular 2019 offerings.

The hand wringing that often accompanies budget meetings was replaced by smiles and even laughter (though, full disclosure, nobody thought to leap for joy).

And so it is my pleasure (and joy!) to invite you to participate in the 2019 budget challenge. Attached to this issue of ***Ballard Blessings***, you will find an envelope marked ***2019 Budget Challenge***. Below, you will also find a tear-off segment for you to fill out and insert into the envelope with your special gift. In the place of the "I Care" offering this month, we will receive the gifts in a special processional offering on Sunday, February 24. But, if it is more convenient for you to offer your gift on another Sunday or to send it by mail, know that it will be joyfully received whenever or however you offer it.

Thanks in advance for your generosity! And, if this is not a good season in life for you to make such a gift, please do not feel obligated to give. Thanks so much for who you are and for the gift of your presence in our faith community. By your presence, you simply ***are*** a gift.

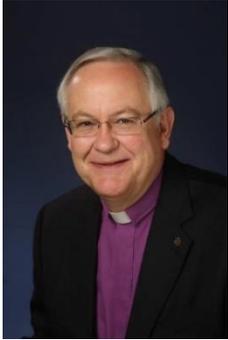
In Christ's Abundant Generosity.
Erik

2019 Budget Challenge

Date: _____ ***Name(s):*** _____

Amount above my regular giving:

One time gift \$ _____ ***Monthly increase \$*** _____



Connecting the dots

Bishop Kirby Unti
NW Washington Synod / ELCA
From the February 2019 edition
of *The Spirit*

I have thought many times about my trip last year to Standing Rock to stand in solidarity with our Native American brothers and sisters as they fight to protect their lands and waters.

I will never forget how the Standing Rock people spoke of their sacred land. Their relationship with the land is very personal. They understand the earth is their mother. The soil is the womb of the mother. The rivers, lakes and sea are the amniotic fluid. They were there with tribal representatives from around the world not to protect their property, but to protect their mother's womb and the fluids that make for life.

It was so clear to me how they live in relationship with the land and water. Relationship for them is about seeing themselves as a part of the earth - not separate from it or in any way above it. Their relationship with the land is very mutual - each knowing they rely upon the other for their very existence.

Compare that to how we have treated the earth in the Western world. Often, we see the earth as an object that we are free to exploit. The earth is there for our use and benefit. It becomes our property and our possession, and we have monetized every part of it.

It is only in recent times that we come to the realization that we are severely harming the earth and may be pushing her beyond her capacity to heal and renew herself. The rate of decline of the polar ice cap and the increase of carbon dioxide into the air is alarming. We are noticing the damage in the rising of both temperatures and the seas. Our Lutheran Church in Shishmaref,

Alaska is faced along with the whole town with having to relocate as the seas continue to rise.

Luther would find this to be very disturbing because he believed so strongly that God is embedded in all the creation - even in the tiniest tree. Just as we are called to love our neighbor, we are called to see the creation as sacred and to be in relationship with it.

When we do not honor our relationships, we cease to live long in the land.

I am starting to connect the dots – I see that we in the West have not only become separated from the land, we have become separated from our neighbors. I believe this separation is one of the leading forces that is dismantling the church as we have known it.

In too many cases we no longer see our neighbors as subjects to be highly regarded. We see our neighbors as objects to be used for our benefit. Exploitation not only will destroy the earth, it will destroy the church and the communities in which we live.

Our Living Local movement invites us to overcome the gap that exists between us and our neighbors. The movement invites us to come to know our neighbors. It is all about entering mutual relationships of caring and serving together.

One of the classic definitions of sin is separation – when we become separated from God and neighbor and are turned in on ourselves.

Might I suggest we all need to get our hands in the dirt and discover once again Mother Earth. Might we care for her, deeply respect and honor her, and learn how to live in relationship with her. And might we come to know our neighbors, care for them, deeply respect and honor them and learn how to live in relationship with them.

+BKU

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
Total Income	\$98,207.09	\$86,255.48	\$556,972.47	\$507,616.00	\$49,356.47
Expenses	\$85,022.25	\$40,204.98	\$696,451.41	\$509,508.20	\$186,943.21
Surplus / (Loss)	\$13,184.84	\$46,050.50	(\$139,478.94)	(\$1,892.20)	(\$137,586.74)

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, held Ballard First Friday and a Seahawks Watch Party, provided space for NAMI, Julefest, the Market Street Singers, NW Firelight Chorale, Sunnmorslaget av, AA groups, LYONS, Renewal, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Salmon Bay School, hosted weekly text study for area pastors, held a blood drive, financially helped support Neighbors in Faith.

PASTORAL ACTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Committal Service

Glen Ellison

January 16, 2019

LOOKING AHEAD TO VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the Date!
Kids Camp 2019
July 29 – Aug 2

+ BFL

REGISTRATION COMING SOON!



SERVANT LEADERS FOR FEBRUARY

Altar Care - Month of February: Kari Fera



Acolytes

February 3 TBD
February 10 TBD
February 17 TBD
February 24 TBD

Assisting Minister

February 3 Karin Swanson
February 10 Brett Hagen
February 17 Karrin Daniels
February 24 Chris Bloomquist



Communion Assistants

February 3 Edna Peterson, Monica Scott
February 10 Kathy Johnson, Kristen Wilson Weiberg
February 17 Joan Peterson, Kim Peterson
February 24 Joan Peterson, Kim Peterson



Counters

February 3 Laurie & Terry McGibbon, Ellen & Geoff Wall
February 10 Kris Breton, Juliet Dickens, Ken Mingeaud
February 17 Sue Clauson, Kelly Fahlman
February 24 Jan Holm, Ramona Leer

Lectors

February 3 Mary Golden
February 10 Tom Tocher
February 17 Gordon Kramer
February 24 Karin Swanson



Ushers

February 3 Laurie Fladhus, Eric Green, John and Jennifer Schwartz
February 10 Jenny Holm, Jeff Powers, Glenn Hare, and Amelia Hare
February 17 David Austin, Laurie Austin, Farid Chouery, and Kevin Severud
February 24 Gunbjorg Ladstein, Marcia Nelson, Jim Walker



Van Drivers

February 3 Ray Gooch
February 10 TBD
February 17 Kim Peterson
February 24 Bruce Webster

Calling all movie fans!



The BFL movie club is hosting its tenth annual Oscar night party on Sunday, February 24th.

Marcia Nelson will once more host a potluck party, starting at 5:00 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!



BALLARD FIRST FRIDAYS Meet up for an informal, dutch-treat dinner. Each month, we will announce a different restaurant where we will gather to enjoy a meal and fellowship with Ballard First on the First Friday of the month.

Our next gathering will take place on **Friday, March 1st at 5:00 p.m. at the newly renovated Taco Time**, 853 NW Market St. No need to RSVP, just show up, order at the counter, and look for the table with the BFL sign! Questions? Monica Scott - (803) 944-7008 or monicakscott@gmail.com.

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held after worship on Sunday, January 27, 2019.

Elections were held for numerous positions.

Thanks be to God for the following newly elected leaders!

Church Council Officers

Karrin Daniels, Church Council President
David Austin, Church Council Vice President
Bruce Webster, Church Council Secretary

Endowment Committee Board of Directors

Kathy Johnson, Director Four
Gayle Solberg, Director Five
Matt Orme, Director Six

Childcare Board of Directors

Christiann Stapf, Director Three
Leotagail Kramer, Director Four

Memorials Committee

Sharon Lange, Member Two

Nominating Committee

Karin Swanson, Member One
Tom Tocher, Member Two
Jerry Shierk, Member Three
Kim Peterson, Member Four
The position of Member Five is vacant; the task of filling it is forwarded to the Church Council

Synod Assembly

Gunbjorg Ladstein, Female Layperson Delegate
Jerry Shierk, Male Layperson Delegate
Will Golden, Youth Delegate

Copies of the 2018 Annual Report will be available in the narthex.



With February upon us, I'm sure there will be many heart decorations made with glitter, paints, colored paper, and more! There will also be plenty of Valentines exchanged and shared with LoVe, amongst our friends here! Years ago, I wrote a fun little Valentine song, that I love teaching the children each year. ❤️

Our Silent Auction (with dinner) is on again this year! It will be on Friday, May 31st, at 6p.m. in the Cross and Crown Room (Lower Social Hall), if you would like to attend. I'm just now sending out letters to procure from businesses. If any of you have an item that you would like to donate, that is new or 'as new', we would be delighted! This is an all family event, so the childcare families will attend as well.

God's Blessings, Ms. Karen & Staff

2019 Summer Trips!

Middle school youth (current 6th-8th grade) are invited to join us going to Camp Lutherwood in Oregon. High school youth (current 8th-12th grade) can sign up to go to Idaho Servant Adventures, a ministry of Lutherhaven. Current 8th grade youth are able to choose which trip they would like to participate in, that's not a typo! If current 5th graders are interested in the middle school trip, please talk to Bryant to see if it would be a good fit for your youth. Information and sign up is available on the LYONS website (roaringlyons.org).

High School Snowshoeing with Peak 7

7:00am-4:00pm (ish) Wednesday, February 20

Meet at SJU, cost \$45

Looking for a great way to get up into the snow during mid-winter break? Join us for a day of snowshoeing at Snoqualmie Pass with Peak 7 Adventures' guides leading the way. Friends welcome! Sign up on the LYONS website.

Go! Night 2019 - March 1-2 - 6pm-7:30am (6th-8th Grade)

Start/End @ St. John United Lutheran Church Cost: \$45

Join us for a fun filled night with youth from across the Northwest Washington Synod. We will be heading down to St. Matthew's in Renton for an all-night event. We will be doing all sorts of different fun activities, enjoying food, worshipping, and have great fellowship together. Events in the past have included Family fun Center, Bowling, Trampolines, and much more! This event goes on all night and has the youth participating in all the fun past mid-night ending in the synod's largest slumber party around 2am. As always, friends are more than welcome to join and are highly encouraged to.

**Addressing Homelessness in the Puget Sound Area
A Presentation by Compass Housing Alliance**

Saturday, February 9, 2 p.m. at Compass on Dexter

756 John Street, Seattle (South Lake Union neighborhood, just east of Dexter Avenue N. and north of Denny Park)

Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa invites us all to this meeting to learn more about Compass Housing Alliance. Light refreshments will be served. Metered on-street parking is available in the South Lake Union area.

At this event, new and gently used books, board games, and school and art supplies for the residents of Compass Housing Alliance facilities will be happily accepted from donors.

Call Joan Peterson (206 789 7447 - no text) or e-mail joanmepeterson@gmail.com to RSVP. We want enough to have enough cookies for everyone.

BISHOP ELECTION

Nomination process for Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod is NOW OPEN and will continue until February 16. The election will take place at the Synod Assembly, May 17-19, 2019.

The Nomination Form and information on the nomination/election processes can be found at www.lutheransnw.org/bishop-election. Paper copies of the Nomination Form may be obtained upon request to the Synod office: 206-783-9292.

Any member of a congregation of the Northwest Washington Synod may make (only) one nomination. Nominees must be on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament of the ELCA, but they are not required to be a pastor of a congregation within this synod; a person may not self-nominate.

All members of congregations are invited and encouraged to participate in a brief survey that will provide important information about key issues and desired leadership attributes. To take the survey: www.research.net/r/NWWashingtonSBE.

ADVOCACY



FAN works for social justice across the state.

Interfaith Advocacy Day Faith Action Network is sponsoring its annual Interfaith Advocacy Day (IFAD) at the state legislature on Thursday, February 14th. 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 2019 Legislative Agenda
- Learn current best practices on how to advocate in today's legislature
- **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 to register** or if you need a scholarship.

Ballard First will be taking the van to Olympia on that day. Make sure you have a "seat on the bus." Contact the office at 206-784-1306.

UBUNTU HOUSE

It appears that Ubuntu House will not be occupied until later this spring. Thank you to all who have donated furnishings for the house.

Items still needed: (we will continue to let you know of needs)

- desks for bedrooms (3)
- linens, blankets and towels
- kitchen dishes, silverware and cutlery

Please contact Tina Aure at taure@msn.com or the church office at office@bflcs.org or 206-784-1306 before dropping items or furniture off at the church. Donations must be approved.

EARTH MINISTRY BRUNCH BINGO



Saturday, March 02, 2019 @ 11:00 AM

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral - Bloedel Hall (enter at back),
1245 10th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98102

Dress up in costume, enjoy a tasty brunch, and play bingo for fabulous prizes at our **Mardi Gras Brunch BINGO** fundraiser! Partner with us to have a good time while raising funds for vital faith-based environmental stewardship and advocacy.

Your ticket gets you:

- Brunch by Flame Catering
- Bottomless mimosas or fabulous local beer
- 5 fun-filled rounds of bingo & great prizes!

Come to support Earth Ministry's good work, have fun & WIN!

Tickets can be purchased through this website: <http://bit.ly/2019brunchbingo>

*This event is 21+. Earth Ministry hosts many other family events throughout the year, and we would love to see you and your kids there!

BLESSING OF THE FLEET - 2019



The Blessing of the Fleet.
Sunday, March 17th at 2:00 p.m.
Fishermen's Terminal

BLOOD DRIVE IN MARCH



The Bloodworks NW mini-bus will be in the Ballard First parking lot on Saturday, March 2nd, from 9:00 until noon. (note new hours)

Please donate – weather and the government shutdown have impacted the blood supply. **Alert:** A-neg, B-neg, O-neg, and O-pos blood types and platelets are at emergency levels.

Please check the BFL website
www.bflcs.org for updates and
changes to the calendar.