

**+ 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**

**8:00 a.m. Worship**

**9:00 a.m. Education**

**10:00 a.m. Worship**

**Coffee Hour Fellowship following Worship**

**Upcoming Events in February**

**Interfaith Advocacy Day – Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**

# BALLARD BLESSINGS

## February 2020

### † 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

#### ☞ Staff ☜

Pastor Erik R. Wilson Weiberg

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Pastor Elise Scott

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Church Administrator: Cindy Jackson

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Caretaker: Matt Horton

Treasurer: Julie Millet

Organist: David Lepsie

Minister of Music:

Molly Barnes

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Accompanist: Jim Fisher

#### ☞ BFL Childcare Center ☜

206-784-1307

Director: Karen Hutchison

#### ☞ Church Council ☜

President: Karrin Daniels

Vice President: Steve Redpath

Secretary: Sue Haugen

#### ☞ Administrative Leaders ☜

Childcare: Robin Kotulka

Facilities: Tina Aure

Finance: David Austin

Personnel: Kathy Johnson

Gunbjorg Ladstein

February 1, 2020

***"It is appalling that the most segregated hour of Christian America is eleven o'clock on Sunday morning."*** - The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Why is my denomination so white?" The question was posed by Shari Seifert in the January 2020 cover story in the ELCA magazine, ***Living Lutheran***. The question itself can inspire a whole range of responses. These might include shame, defensiveness, incredulity, or inspiration to do something about it. One thing that the question probably ***doesn't*** inspire is argument. The fact of the church's "whiteness" is pretty indisputable: According to the article, the ELCA is 96% white.

On the face of it, the statistic is not a terribly shocking one. The Lutheran church first appeared in Germany and soon moved north into Scandinavia. It is not unreasonable to think, "Of course the ELCA is a white denomination! We were born that way." But does the fact of our origins really answer the question, "Why is my denomination so white?" It explains our beginnings. But our beginnings go back over five hundred years now. If the question was, "Why ***was*** my denomination so white?" then the answer that our church has its roots in northern Europe makes perfect sense. But the question isn't about our history. It is about our present: "Why ***is*** my denomination so white?"

Or, to put it more accurately, "Why has my denomination ***remained*** so white?" If the church were formed in order to preserve a specific ethnicity, if Jesus had charged his followers to maintain some racial sense of purity, then we would have to conclude that we in the ELCA have been very faithful to our calling. But, of course, remaining ethnically white is not our calling. Long ago, God established a covenant with Abraham that explicitly stated God's desire and intention that all the families of the earth be blessed. And, just before ascending into heaven, Jesus commissioned his followers to go and baptize all nations. We are bound not in ethnic blood, but in baptismal water.

## ***FROM THE PASTOR continued***

I believe that our lack of diversity is a sign that we have some work to do. I do not say this to shame or to put anyone on the defensive. Being white is not the problem. It's just a fact. But I believe that being almost exclusively white is a problem. In fact, I number myself among all who believe that racism is a sin against God and neighbor. And the first solution to any problem is to admit there is one. Likewise, the best first response to sin is confession. And then repentance. In confession and repentance, we recognize that God is calling us to make things right.

We all have opinions about race and racism, but I believe that our best response to it begins by learning. In our adult education hour this year, we will at times continue to gather under the theme, "Race Matters." That phrase can mean two different and equally important things, depending on where the emphasis is placed. To say that, "Race matters," is to say that race is important and shapes how we treat one another and it therefore deserves our attention so that we might be more thoughtful and caring and respectful in how we relate to our neighbor. To use the phrase, "Race Matters," is also to say that, when it comes to race, there are matters that demand our attention if we are honestly interested in being a church that is safe and welcoming to all people.

People who visit our church often remark to me how much they like our church's mission statement. They speak of their appreciation of its message of inclusiveness. That always makes me smile. It's a great beginning. But a mission statement alone is not enough. We are still very early into the process of living into that statement. I believe that we have much to learn. So I invite you to participate more fully in the congregation. It will be the theme during our Sunday school hour all through February. And, I am happy to announce that we are dedicating an entire day to living more deeply into our mission statement! Please mark your calendars now for Saturday, March 14. That day, Claire Smith of the Kaleidoscope Institute will be on hand to lead a workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. as we host an event that invites participants to think about and discuss matters such as race and privilege... and to be challenged by God's hopeful vision of a peaceful and just kingdom. We pray the words all the time: "On earth as it is in heaven."

Can we live as if it were so?

Erik

## ***ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IN FEBRUARY: "RACE MATTERS"***

February is "Black History Month." Join us at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday in Haavik Hall as we come together under the theme of "**Race Matters.**"

February 2: **Race Matters: Pastor Erik Wilson Weiberg** leads an exercise in "**Considering White Privilege in the ELCA.**"

February 9: **Race Matters: Glen Hare** reports and leads conversation based on the book, ***Between the World and Me*** by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

February 16: **Race Matters:** Come for small group conversation as we discuss race employing "**Mutual Invitation.**"

February 23: **Race Matters: Steve Dreher** reports and leads conversation based on the book, ***Why I'm No Longer Talking (to White People) About Race*** by Reni Eddo-Lodge.



## Grace Grants

*From the February edition of The Spirit*

I am excited to announce that the application process for Northwest Washington Synod Grace Grants is open. Thanks to the vision and desire for continued ministry, Grace Lutheran, Bellevue gave the synod council a percentage of their proceeds when they closed their ministry. The synod council, in turn, wants to invest this money in congregations and ministry sites who are doing faithful innovation. In that spirit, Grace Grants were born.

For each of the next three years, \$100,000 will be made available for congregations and ministry sites to apply for Grace Grants. If other congregations, institutions or individuals would like to contribute to this-fund, the synod council will continue Grace grants beyond these initial three years.

Congregations and ministry sites are welcome to apply for grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$20,000. The council welcomes all applications. In particular, the Grace Grant Committee and synod council are looking for congregations who are faithfully looking into the future, trusting God, and seeing new possibilities in sharing the story of Jesus.

As you consider these grants, these questions might help you discern what God is up to in your area of the synod:

- What is happening in your church's neighborhood? Where do you see possibilities for partnership or collaboration?
- What is our unique ELCA identity and witness?
- Are there avenues to talk with and listen to those outside the walls of the church?

- How can we equip disciples and our own community of faith?
- How can we foster a spirit of connection across the synod?
- What are the resources needed to develop new leaders?
- How can we partner with young adults, listening and collaborating?
- Where are the places we can be more eco-friendly in our church buildings?
- Who are those marginalized?
- Who are those discriminated against?

Of course, there are other areas to consider for ministry through these Grace Grants. These are just a few ideas that might help.

As you prepare, here are some important dates:

- February 1 - Grant Application Period open, find form on synod website.
- May 1 - Applications due. No late applications will be accepted.
- May - Grant committee review will take place.
- June 5 - Final approval of Grants by Synod Council.
- June 6 - Notification of grants awarded at Synod Assembly.
- July 1 - Grants to be funded

Grants need to be used between July 1, 2020 & April 1, 2021. Grants are potentially renewable.

I hope you find this opportunity as exciting as the Northwest Washington Synod Council. We are excited to continue vitalizing our congregations and ministry sites into the future – as we trust God is walking with us, leading us and guiding us.

Grace & Peace,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

# 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	\$27,874.30	\$41,163.97	\$301,007.59	\$334,000.00	(\$32,992.41)
Other Income	\$60,713.80	\$60,286.36	\$187,391.89	\$189,585.00	(\$2,193.11)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$88,588.10</b>	<b>\$101,450.33</b>	<b>\$488,399.48</b>	<b>\$523,585.00</b>	<b>(\$35,185.52)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$48,519.55</b>	<b>\$41,760.28</b>	<b>\$493,507.11</b>	<b>\$523,583.00</b>	<b>(\$30,075.89)</b>
<b>Surplus / (Loss)</b>	<b>\$40,068.55</b>	<b>\$59,690.05</b>	<b>(\$5,107.63)</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>(\$5,109.63)</b>
<b>Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$53,685.19</b>				
<b>Savings Balance</b>	<b>\$ 291,344.64</b>				

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, provided space for NAMI, the Market Street Singers, Sunnmorslaget av, AA groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, hosted weekly text study for area pastors, held a blood drive, financially helped support the Ballard Food Bank.

## STEWARDSHIP

2020

2020 seems to have snuck up on me. The whirlwind of the short amount of time between Thanksgiving and Christmas made it hard to give Advent its due as a season of waiting and contemplation. But here it is, not just a new year, but the start of a new decade.

The last decade saw a lot of changes in the world as well as my own life. In the last ten years, the world's challenges have increased and divisions have become adamantly defended. Personally, I have grown from both love and loss.

As I look ahead to the coming decade, I really don't know what is in store for the world, for us as a community, or for me. The world will likely more chaotic. Our community may face good times or bad times. I will not be able to ignore that I am growing older. I do know that together, I (and we) will have the strength and courage to face the challenges and gratitude for the joys that will come.

That strength, courage and gratitude comes from God's love and our minds, hearts and hands doing God's work. We can stay on the path in small ways like listening to each other and praying. We can have the courage to not show fear and do what is right in the world. We can have the thankfulness to celebrate the joys.

Will you have the courage in God's love to meet the challenges and the appreciation for the joys that are ahead in the next decade?

In Peace, Ann Maki

## I CARE FOR FEBRUARY

I Care Sunday is February 23<sup>rd</sup> and is in support of Refugees Northwest, a program of Lutheran Community Services. Refugees NW works with thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers each year to build upon the strength and courage that got them here, and to support their hopes and dreams. Programs include trauma-focused mental health support, torture treatment, unaccompanied minor foster care, asylum assistance, complex medical case management, and a variety of community programs that help develop new skills, gain citizenship, and build fulfilling connections.

## Altar Care - Month of February:



### Assisting Minister

- February 2 Scott Ingham
- February 9 Karrin Daniels
- February 16 Erin Schadt
- February 23 Chris Bloomquist



### Communion Assistants

- February 2 Gunbjorg Ladstein, Kristen Wilson Weiberg
- February 9 Kathy Johnson, **TBD**
- February 16 Edna Peterson, Susan Weber
- February 23 Joan Peterson, Kim Peterson

### Counters



- February 2 Sue Clausen
- February 9 Tina Aure, Karen & Malcolm Unseth
- February 16 Kris Breton, Juliet Dickens, Ken Mingaud
- February 23 Laurie & Terry McGibbon, Ellen & Geoff Wall

### Lectors

- February 2 Kris Breton
- February 9 Glenn Hare
- February 16 Kathy Johnson
- February 23 Jerry Shierk



### Ushers

- February 2 David Austin, Laurie Austin, Farid Chouery
- February 9 Sylvia Vikingstad, Sherry Lemmer, Kim Peterson
- February 16 Laurie Fladhus, Eric Green, John & Jennifer Schwartz
- February 23 Gunbjorg Ladstein, Marcia Nelson, Jim Walker

### Van Drivers

- February 2 Don Torcaso
- February 9 Tina Aure
- February 16 Kim Peterson
- February 23 **TBD**





## *Calling all movie fans!*

*The BFL movie club is hosting its annual Oscar night party on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.*

*Jim and Nancy Fisher are hosting this year's potluck party, 8744 Jones Ave NW, Seattle 98117*

*Doors open at 4:30 - the Oscars start at 5:00 p.m.*

*Popcorn and Oscar ballots will be provided.*

**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.

**Ballard First Fridays - Friday, February 7th at 5:00 p.m. at Sopranos Pizza and Pasta (7729 24th Ave NW).** No need to RSVP, just show up and look for the table with the BFL sign! The menu includes pizza, pasta, and salads! Questions? Monica Scott - (803) 944-7008 or [monicakscott@gmail.com](mailto:monicakscott@gmail.com).



### **COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED**

Have you considered signing up to host one of our fellowship hours following the 10:00 Sunday service? Or, bringing goodies to stock our freezer for "No Host" Sundays? This fellowship time is enjoyed by so many; however, we are always in need of people to serve as hosts and hostesses and to pitch in with set-up/clean-up. So, grab a friend or two and sign up today in Haavik Hall!

### **MISSION SEWING**

The Mission Sewing group received a wonderful donation of fabrics and thread from Sherry Lemmer. When Sherry moved, her daughter brought us several large totes of fabrics. In December, we sorted those fabrics and discovered many treasures. We have fabric for many, many quilt tops.

Sherry's careful fabric collecting has inspired me to get out my sewing machine to make some of those quilt tops. It is rekindling my long-dormant creativity.

If you are interested in sewing quilt tops or help out with assembling the quilts for Lutheran World Relief, please talk to Sue Haugen or Ann Maki and we'll get you started. We meet at 7:00 the first Monday of each month to make the quilts.



Thank you again, Sherry!

If you have questions, feel free to contact Sue Haugen at 206-334-8046 or email at [haugsm1@gmail.com](mailto:haugsm1@gmail.com).

The Annual Meeting was held after worship on Sunday, January 26, 2020.

Elections were held for numerous positions. Thanks be to God for the following newly elected leaders!

### Executive Team

Karrin Daniels, Church Council President  
Steve Redpath, Church Council Vice President  
Sue Haugen, Church Council Secretary

### Administrative Leaders

Robin Kotulka, Childcare Chair  
Tina Aure, Facilities Team  
David Austin, Finance Team  
Kathy Johnson & Gunbjorg Ladstein, Personnel Team

### Our Life Together Team

Richard Harmon  
Robin Middleton  
Erin Schadt  
Monica Scott  
Ann Maki

### Church in Community Team

Scott Ingham  
Glenn Hare  
Joan Peterson  
Chuck Golden  
Kevin Severud

### Endowment Committee Board of Directors

Edna Peterson, Director Four  
Erling Skaar, Director Five  
Marcia Nelson, Director Six

### Childcare Board of Directors

Robin Kotulka, Board Chair  
Lauren Jensen, Director Three  
Elaine Ericksen, Director Four  
Jenny Holm, Director Five

### Memorials Committee

Cam Hardy, Member One  
Ray Gooch, Member Three

### Nominating Committee

Karrin Daniels, Member One  
Sue Clausen, Member Two

### Synod Assembly

Karin Swanson, Female Layperson Delegate  
Carlton Redpath, Youth Delegate

Copies of the 2019 Annual Report will be available in the narthex.



### FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup> - FAN GOES TO OLYMPIA - COME WITH US!

Faith Action Network works to change public policies that impact the well-being of all people and our planet. Starting in our own state, FAN has organized an Advocacy Day in Olympia on February 6 to bring our concerns and requests to the attention of our Washington Legislature.

- Want to hear about what's happening in Washington that affects you and the rest of us?
- Want to meet your own state Senator and House members?
- Want to have your voice heard in a way that reflects your Christian values and concerns?

Join us on February 6<sup>th</sup> for a day in Olympia: Call Joan Peterson (206 789 7447) or [joanmepeterson@hotmail.com](mailto:joanmepeterson@hotmail.com) for more information or go directly to [www.FANWA.ORG](http://www.FANWA.ORG).

We hope to have carpools from BFL or other nearby churches, too.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND FAMILY FAITH FORMATION**

This month's curriculum will include the following scripture and families are encouraged to discuss the corresponding questions included below each week!

### February 2, 2020 - **The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:1-12**

Family discussion questions to center discussions of this passage include:

1. If Jesus gave this talk at your school, which group would he comfort by saying 'Blessed are you'?
2. What other groups or people can you think of to add to Jesus' list and what would be their comfort?
3. As a family, write a blessing for someone who could use comfort or strength. Write a blessing for each member of your family to remind them that God loves and blesses each of you.

### February 9, 2020 - **Salt and Light - Matthew 5:13-20**

This week's family discussion questions include:

1. What are some sources of light?
2. How does the light help you each day?
3. When is it important to have light?

### February 16, 2020 - **Jesus Teaches about Anger - Matthew 5:21-37**

A couple of questions to discuss around this text include:

1. What makes you angry?
2. What would Jesus want you to do about that anger?
3. Who have you had to forgive?
4. Who has had to forgive you? Why?

### February 23, 2020 - **The Transfiguration - Matthew 17:1-13**

Discussion questions for this week's text include:

1. How would you feel if your teacher's face suddenly shone like the sun and their clothes turned white? What would you do if that happened?

## **YOUTH EVENTS**

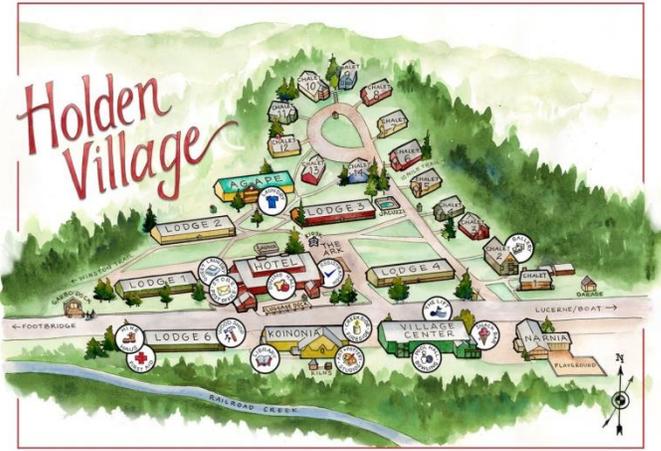
**Coffee Wednesday's continue this month!** We will meet at Grumpy D's (7001 15th Ave NW) on February 5th, 12th, and 26th between 2:30 and 5 pm! Please note there will be no Coffee Wednesday on February 19th as school will be out for mid-winter break! Please plan to join us on the other Wednesdays for fellowship, games, and time to do homework! First drink is on us and feel free to invite friends! All youth between the ages of 6th and 12th grade are welcome!

**Second Sundays!** On Sunday, February 9th, all youth are invited to attend our Second Sunday Dinner! We will meet in Haavik Hall for a time of fellowship and games and will conclude our evening with a discussion about ways we'd like to improve our youth room and then creating an action plan to make those improvements happen! Hope everyone can join us and always, please feel free to invite your friends!

**Youth Bowling Activity Saturday February 22nd!** We will gather at BFL at 2 pm for an afternoon of bowling and fun and will return by 5 pm! More details to come!

## **HOLDEN VILLAGE – THERE IS ROOM FOR YOU!**

**Join BFL at Holden Village this summer!  
June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>**



Holden Village is a unique Lutheran retreat center situated in the rugged beauty of the Cascade Mountains.

You will enjoy alpine hiking, rich learning, arts and crafts, quiet conversation, boisterous games, stimulating Bible study, and creative worship.

**Holden is great for kids and families.** Besides being safe and directly in God's creation, the village school holds morning classes where kids can meet other kids.

**It is a place for all who seek rest and renewal** and the opportunity to take part in daily rhythms of study, recreation, worship, and shared meals with good company.

Interested in finding out more? Contact the office or sign up in Haavik Hall.

## **BLESSING OF THE FLEET - 2020**



The Blessing of the Fleet.  
Sunday, March 8<sup>h</sup> at 2:00 p.m.  
Fishermen's Terminal

## **BLOOD DRIVE**



From Bloodworks NW –

Thank you so much for your support of our mission. we value our partnership and can't wait to see what 2020 will bring. Also, special thaks to Sylvia Vikingstad and Don Torcaso – they are the key to our successful blood drives.

### **2019 Blood Drive Results:**

Registered: 31 donors

First time donors: 3

Collected 26 pints

**78 lives saved!**