

**+** 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

**Sunday Morning Schedule**

**9:00am Education, 10:00am Worship  
Coffee Hour Fellowship following Worship**

**Upcoming Events**

**Special Meeting of the Congregation  
Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am**

**Annual Meeting and Potluck  
Sunday, January 31st at 11:30am**

# BALLARD BLESSINGS

JANUARY 2017

## † BALLARD FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

2006 NW 65th Street, Seattle, WA 98117 • 206.784.1306 • www.bflcs.org • A Reconciling in Christ Community

Following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, we at Ballard First Lutheran affirm the dignity and worth of all people. We believe God calls us to be a community of grace, compassion, and justice. With St. Paul, we affirm that, in Christ, "There is no longer Jew or Gentile, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all are one in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3:28) We believe that the Gospel, that is, the good news of Jesus Christ, is God's gift for all people. Furthermore, we believe that this gift is to be shared unconditionally, without regard to age, race, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic or family status, or physical or mental ability.

### ☞ Staff ☞

Pastor Erik R. Wilson Weiberg  
pastorerik@bflcs.org  
Vicar Joshua Sullivan  
vicarjoshua@bflcs.org  
Church Administrator: Cindy Jackson  
office@bflcs.org  
Caretaker: Dale Pederson  
Treasurer: Julie Millet  
Organist: Ed Egerdahl  
Minister of Music:  
Molly Barnes  
musicminister@bflcs.org  
Renewal: Jessica Zimmerle  
renewal@bflcs.org  
Accompanist: Jim Fisher  
Sunday Nursery: Emily LaFave

### ☞ BFL Childcare Center ☞

206-784-1307  
Director: Karen Hutchison

### ☞ LYONS ☞

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

### ☞ Church Council ☞

President: Susan Weber  
Vice President: Jeff Powers  
Secretary: Lisa Laxson

### ☞ Ministry Coordinators ☞

Childcare: Karin Swanson  
Facilities: Steve Maris  
Finance: Kris Breton  
Personnel: Susan Clauson

### ☞ Council At-Large Reps ☞

Lauren Jensen  
Edna Peterson

January 1, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

On January 8, a special congregational meeting will be held after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We will have one order of business: To consider whether to call Elise Scott as a half-time pastor on a two-year contractual basis. Elise has not yet been ordained, but has graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and has been certified to serve as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She will be eligible to become ordained once she receives a call from a congregation. Prior to attending seminary, Elise was an attorney and continued to practice law as a way of putting herself through seminary.

Elise actually lived in our church apartment several years ago when she served as the FAN Intern when St. John United Lutheran Church was the sponsoring congregation. So her internship was very much like our Vicar Joshua Sullivan's internship. She knows what it is to divide one's time between a congregation and another organization.

Through that experience, in fact, Elise came to believe that God is calling her to serve bi-vocationally, half-time as a pastor and half-time as a legal guardian for vulnerable seniors, work that she is currently doing on a full-time basis and that she will be able to continue to do on a half-time basis. If we were to vote to call her, Elise would work three days a week at her firm and three days a week at Ballard First Lutheran.

I have had the privilege to know Elise since her year of internship. I experience her as a vibrant, smart, caring, responsible, joyful, hard-working person. She cares deeply about both the church and the world. I believe she would be very effective in helping us look beyond our church walls as we continue in our efforts to seek and find more ways to engage the world. Elise is deeply faithful to both God and neighbor.

Elise is from the south and has lived significant portions of her life in Atlanta, Georgia and also in South Carolina. The daughter of a Lutheran pastor, she remains very close to her family.

I hope you will join us for the vote on January 8!

In Christ's Abiding Love,

Pastor Erik Wilson Weiberg

## ***VICAR REFLECTIONS***

As I am scrolling endlessly through social-media sites, thinking of the brutal and timely political humor of Saturday Night Live these days, and also the pop-up discussions all around of “fake news” and the “newly discovered” cruelty all around Seattle, Washington and the United States—I can’t help but wonder: what would a thought-provoking “vicar’s reflection” be like for this month, this new year? I am, after all, only a learner welcomed into your faith-life. Would it be a gentle warning, an admonishment, or just a naming of things—or an encouragement? Who reads these things anyway? What do you ever expect? With my cynical side I would guess maybe just smiles and surface skimming.

In this season, I would want you to fully feel how dark and inhospitable the world is. A sad fact that Black Americans, Native Americans, Muslims and nearly all people of color in this country have known all along. Now, many of us who are of European-descent feel for the first time in a long while the urgency of justice and the accompanying shame of realizing it is not always served in our land. We lament the things that are done on our behalf...

This is but one flavor of the darkness that Advent has represented—the darkness of this world and our selfishness. Yet, as we know and have seen, the color scattered around our church and worship space was a deep, deep blue. A blue that represents the darkness of night, but also equally represents that powerful luminescent blue that comes just before dawn. The light that this blue harkens to, that which we call Christ, on Christmas Day has come into the world! Hallelujah!

You are the Church. You are the most potent symbol of the Body of Christ in this world. The Holy Spirit is with you all! What will the dawn of God in the world look like this year in your life? What do the reverberations of God’s breaking into the world sound like? A kind word more often, the adoption of a new perspective, a new found and defiant joy, a refreshed look at the dozens and dozens of non-profit agencies in our community toiling for the kingdom of God to come a little nearer, a new relationship, a new hope...

May God be with you this new year,  
Vicar Joshua

## ***PASTORAL ACTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER***

### **Memorial Service**

Joanne Shierk  
December 12, 2016

### **Committal Service**

Bernice Mann  
December 2, 2016

## ***SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING***

BALLARD FIRST LUTHERAN COUNCIL announces a special congregational meeting to be held after worship on Sunday, January 8, 2017, the purpose of which is to vote on extending a call of a half time pastor to Elise Scott.

## Saying “YES” to a new year

The Rev. Kirby Unti, NWWA Synod Bishop  
From the December 2016 Edition of *The Spirit*

*... if you have faith as small as a mustard seed you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. + Matthew 17:20*

How well do you know yourself? Are you a person who more times than not is saying YES to the opportunities that come your way or are you a bit more cautious and likely to say NO.

I began life as a real low risk taker and either flat out said no to any invitations that created discomfort for me or made up excuses as to why I couldn’t participate. This ran the gamut from being invited over to a friend’s house to spend the night to something even more challenging like trying to water ski. I felt it better to play it safe than risk the embarrassment of failure.

I have made some improvements over time but I must confess, I still live life with too much caution and only occasionally push myself beyond my comfort zone. The challenge of being too cautious is it really limits the size of one’s world.

I had an uncle from Duluth who came to visit us in Seattle. He was so miserable being away from home that I doubt he ever ventured out again. Duluth is a nice place but a pretty small geographic area to call your world.

God has never seemed content in allowing people to settle for a smaller world. Our God is the God of adventure - who throughout history has constantly uprooted us a people, calling us to ventures yet unknown.

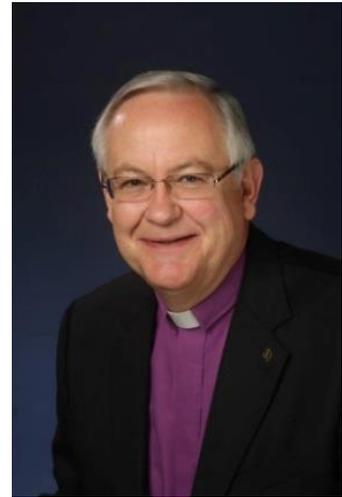
Venturing beyond the world in which we are safe allows us to learn what it means to put our trust in God. I learn this lesson every time I move beyond my fear - whether it is rappelling off the side of Pinnacle Peak near Mt. Rainier, showing up as a police chaplain at a homicide scene, or traveling through Northern Ethiopia. (Not to mention allowing my name to be placed into nomination to serve the Office of Bishop.)

I must say, as a parish pastor I watched the congregations I served struggle with taking risks. It is far easier for governing bodies to say no than it is to say yes. I finally challenged the Church Council to saying yes to everything that came before them unless it was in violation of the mission or core values. If it was an issue that required funding beyond what was in the budget than we shifted the challenge back to the people who wanted to make something happen to figure out a way to fund it.

Our leaders were amazed that over and over again God came through when we were willing to put more and more on the line. We started to do things that we never imagined we could do. Don’t get me wrong, not *everything* worked out. We had our failures along the way. But, I’d rather fail than simply be content with the way things have always been.

Learning to say yes is a tremendous stretching exercise. It doesn’t mean we can always pull it off - but it sure makes our world bigger just by entertaining the possibilities and imagining where the Spirit might lead us.

As we enter 2017, I want to encourage you to become aware of what your tendencies are when it comes to the opportunities that are presented. Let 2017 be the year that you lean in the direction of considering YES before too quickly saying no. Believe me, it will add to your sense of adventure and hopefully strengthen your faith in God.



**DECEMBER WAS A BUSY MONTH!**



*BFL choir members sang at the annual Green Lake Pathway of Lights, and BFL carolers visited church members throughout Ballard, including a stop at GenCare Lifestyle - Ballard Landmark.*

*Families gathered to create gingerbread masterpieces!*



*Shepherds and Angels appeared in the Sanctuary.*

# SERVANT LEADERS FOR JANUARY

**Altar Care Month of January** Marilyn Fuller, Terry LaFave, Sharon Lange, Ramona Leer



## **Acolytes**

January 1 TBD  
January 8 TBD  
January 15 TBD  
January 22  
January 29



## **Assisting Minister**

January 1 Mary Kay Hilmoe  
January 8 Karrin Daniels  
January 15 Chris Bloomquist  
January 22 Erin Schadt  
January 29 TBD

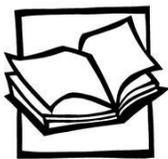
## **Communion Assistants**

January 1 Joan Peterson, Kim Peterson  
January 8 Gunbjorg Ladstein, Lauren Jensen  
January 15 Kristen Wilson Weiberg, Kathy Johnson  
January 22 Edna Peterson  
January 29 Lisa Laxson



## **Counters**

January 1 Tina Aure, Karen & Malcolm Unseth  
January 8 Laurie & Terry McGibbon, Ellen & Geoff Wall  
January 15 Juliet Dickens, Ken Mingeaud, Kris Breton  
January 22 Jan Holm, Ramona Leer  
January 29 TBD



## **Lectors**

January 1 Sarah McFarland  
January 8 Kathy Johnson  
January 15 Gunbjorg Ladstein  
January 22 Glenn Hare  
January 29 Karrin Daniels

## **Ushers**

January 1 Sherry Lemmer, Joan Peterson  
January 8 Dave Hilmoe, Gunbjorg Ladstein, Marcia Nelson  
January 15 Laurie Fladhus & Eric Green, Jennifer and John Schwartz  
January 22 Kim Peterson, Sylvia Vikingstad, Sherry Lemmer  
January 29 TBD



## **Van Drivers**

January 1 Kim Peterson  
January 8 Ray Gooch  
January 15 Tina Aure  
January 22 Dave Hilmoe  
January 29 Kim Peterson

## **DECEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- LYONS board member Keita Horn provided an update on recent LYONS news. Council approved the LYONS covenant for 9017-2019, including BFL's financial commitment to LYONS.
- Council discussed the November financial statement and a preliminary draft of the 2017 budget.
- BFL recently received a large bequest from the Betty Barden estate. Council had a lengthy discussion about how to use this substantial gift wisely and responsibly. Approved the following allocation of funds: 10% will be tithed to missions, 49% will be directed to the building fund, 32% to the endowment and the remainder will be retained for short-term needs.
- BFL and FAN have received approval to host a pastoral intern in 2018-2019.
- Molly Barnes, who had been serving as *Interim* Minister of Music, has agreed to change her status to Minister of Music. (Her position has been made "permanent.")
- As required by the IRS, Council approved a Clergy Housing Allowance for 2017 for Pastor Erik.

*Minutes of the Council Meeting are posted on the bulletin board in the church narthex and in Haavik Hall. Electronic copies of the minutes may be requested from the church office.*

## **I CARE FOR JANUARY**

**JANUARY "I CARE" OFFERING IS LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS.** Every year, 90-100 Lutheran Volunteer Corps members commit to a year living in intentional community, serving at a social justice non-profit, and practicing simple & sustainable living, while exploring spirituality. LVC places Volunteers in nonprofits across the United States in Baltimore, Berkeley, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Oakland, Omaha, San Francisco, St. Paul, Seattle, Tacoma, Washington, D.C., and Wilmington. Serving alongside those in their placements, LVC Volunteers actively respond to the gifts and needs of their community members. Partnering with their placements, LVC Volunteers provide direct service, community organizing, indirect service, advocacy and public policy.

## **FROM THE CHILDCARE CENTER**

As you can imagine, we had many excited children here, anticipating their Christmas wishes coming true. It was also very nice to have them learn about Advent from Pastor Erik, as we lit the candles on the wreath each week during Chapel.

Our annual Christmas Program was, I think, one of the best ever! All of the classrooms, from the smallest to the tallest, did a fantastic job! And extra kudos to the audience of relatives and friends who were patient and quiet throughout the performance. 😊 The slide presentation didn't even get knocked over this year - yeah!

God's Peace,  
Ms. Karen & Staff

**2017**

This year I celebrate a decade birthday and am considering how the next ten years may be lived. Actually only five, as I see myself moving from less wage-earning work to a more relaxed life. A few things (besides the election) happened in 2016 that factored into the decisions about where I may be heading in 2017.

In 2016, I worked four part-time paralegal jobs to get the hours equivalent to full-time employment. It required a lot of organizing and going to three different offices (the fourth job I work at home) and by mid-year became less sustainable. I ended two jobs and am keeping the two jobs that I enjoy.

However, I added a third job in a completely different field into the mi, albeit only until April 18th. The job as tax return preparer is an opportunity to more directly help people in a challenging time for them, which is the

basic philosophy I have about the personal injury paralegal job. It is a short-term commitment with a longer-range goal and will definitely test my introverted nature!

I needed to pay more attention to my health in 2016, particularly my knee and hip joints. Both have been troublesome for a few years, but I was able to ignore it until last spring. After two rounds of physical therapy, I am taking better care of my joints. I'm not settling very easily into this much maintenance and a slower pace.

While I am not making definite plans for the coming year, as I have in the past, being kinder and more loving are the lessons I am carrying from 2016 into 2017. Showing grace toward others and myself is my theme for 2017, as I work through some personal challenges and as the wider world faces some greater challenges.

What will your theme be for 2017?

In Peace, Ann Maki

**FINANCIAL HISTORY REPORT**

**November Financial Report General Fund**

	November Actual	November Budget	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance
Envelope/Loose Giving	\$19,552.29	\$27,744.09	\$267,988.49	\$276,096.85	(\$8,108.36)
Other Income	\$8,290.35	\$7,775.00	\$220,853.45	\$138,525.00	\$82,328.45
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$27,842.64</b>	<b>\$35,519.09</b>	<b>\$488,841.94</b>	<b>\$414,621.85</b>	<b>\$74,220.09</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$36,098.96</b>	<b>\$43,463.23</b>	<b>\$494,504.86</b>	<b>\$514,313.90</b>	<b>(\$19,809.04)</b>
<b>Surplus / (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$8,256.32)</b>	<b>(\$7,944.14)</b>	<b>(\$5,662.92)</b>	<b>(\$99,692.05)</b>	<b>\$94,029.13</b>
<b>Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$48,721.44</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 November, these are some of the ways our financial support to the mission & ministry budget became Christ's hands & feet in the world: provided a nurturing place for the children of our Childcare Center, transported members to Sunday worship, provided space for AA groups, LYONS, Renewal, hosted weekly text study for area pastors, mission/quilting sewing, hosted Sunday Dinners, held an Election Day prayer service, Stewardship Carnival, financially helped support Lutheran World Hunger Appeal.

**Interfaith Advocacy Day** Faith Action Network is sponsoring its annual Interfaith Advocacy Day (IFAD) at the state legislature on Thursday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at The United Churches of Olympia. This day brings the voice of compassion and justice to our elected leaders.

We partner for the common good with people of all faiths who stand up boldly to challenge the powerful. Your meeting with legislators and/or their staff on this day is the most important thing our faith advocates can do.

On Interfaith Advocacy Day, you will be able to:

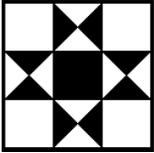
- Join workshops that will break down the issues on FAN's 2017 Legislative Agenda
- Learn current best practices on how to advocate in today's legislature
- Learn how to prepare for briefings and hearings.
- **Meet with your legislator! Once you register, FAN will set up an appointment for you and others from your district**
- Lunch will be provided

## **Don't miss this important day in Olympia!**

**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.

After you register, you will be emailed details on the agenda, workshop topics, and the times of your legislative appointments. *To help us in this important work, make sure you register with a strong commitment to join us on February 9!*

**LOCATION:** We will start the day at **The United Churches of Olympia**, 110 11th Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501. Unless you have special accessibility needs, parking is available in a nearby state capitol parking lot for a small fee. We recommend carpooling with others from your faith community or your area.



**EVENING MISSION QUILTING** - The Evening Edition of Mission Quilting will meet on Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm.

**MID-WEEK NOONTIME BIBLE STUDY RESUMES** The Wednesday Bible study will resume again on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 12pm in Haavik Hall. New members are always welcome.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** for ages 3-103 will resume Sunday, January 8th, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. We welcome new part-time staff member Shela Meneses to our BFL family. Shela will be serving as Sunday school volunteer coordinator and Sunday school pre-k/k teacher through June. Many of you may already know Ms. Shela as a pre-k teacher from our childcare center. We are very excited to have her onboard!

## **2017 ANNUAL MEETING**

The Ballard First Lutheran Annual Meeting will be held on January 29, 2017. The meeting will be held at noon in the Lower Social Hall and will start with a potluck lunch.

The purpose of the annual meeting is for our congregation to reflect on the year that just ended and to plan for the year ahead. There will also be the proposed 2017 budget to consider and vote on. The budget is a reflection of our mission and much work goes into developing the budget that the Council recommends to the congregation for adoption.

## **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!

**STAY CONNECTED!**

**WE HAVE STARTED A NEW WEEKLY E-NEWS AND WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE INCLUDED. PLEASE EMAIL THE OFFICE TO LET US KNOW YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS. [OFFICE@BFLCS.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@BFLCS.ORG)**