

**+ 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

**Annual Meeting and Potluck
Sunday, January 27th at 11:30am**

BALLARD BLESSINGS

January 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

pastorelise@bflcs.org

Church Administrator: Cindy Jackson

office@bflcs.org

Caretaker: Matt Horton

Treasurer: Julie Millet

Organist: Ed Egerdahl

Minister of Music:

Molly Barnes

barnesma@plu.edu

Renewal: Jessica Zimmerle

renewal@bflcs.org

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: 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 ☞

Kim Peterson

Chris Bloomquist

Dear Friends in Christ,

Throughout this past Christmas season, the theme of letting my light shine brightly seemed to follow me wherever I went. If I was walking down the aisles of Fred Meyer, little Christmas trinkets proclaimed "shine brightly" in beautifully written calligraphy that practically made me want to start gleaming right then and there! Pictures of people standing in the midst of Christmas lights inundated my Facebook and Instagram newsfeeds --- with each picture accompanied by a note reminding me to "Let your light shine brightly before others so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Because the above quoted verse has always been my favorite verse of Scripture, I welcomed these many reminders to shine brightly.

In theory, it's not hard to let our lights shine. In theory, the light of God that lies within each of us, shines in each and every action that we take.

Yet, in reality, letting our lights shine is not as easy as it seems it should be. Often, at least for me, we find ourselves weighed down by the stress and difficulties of life. How can we let our lights shine when we're grieving the unexpected death of a loved one? How can we let our lights shine when we're struggling to make our mortgage payments or pay our rent? How can we let our lights shine if we have a family member who we always seem to argue with even during the holidays? How can we let our lights shine when others might judge us?

As I walked the labyrinth at St. Mark's Cathedral on New Year's Eve, I thought about our baptismal calling to let our light shine before others so that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven and I thought about just how hard it is to live into this baptismal calling. And as I walked and thought, it struck me that to truly live into this calling requires significant courage.

For truly letting our lights shine means that we will be seen. No more will we be able to hide in the shadows or to hibernate in the dark. No more will we be able to fade into the background or to bury the gifts we have been given, hoping beyond hope that no one will notice.

To let our lights shine fully and brightly before others means that we open ourselves up to others. It means that we give of ourselves and the gifts God has given to us to make God known, to show compassion, to spread joy, to ensure that all people have the opportunity to experience God's love and light in their lives.

FROM THE PASTOR cont.

And all of this takes courage; it doesn't often come easily or naturally to us.

And yet, God calls us to let our lights shine fully and brightly --- not just at Christmas, but all year long. As we transition from the season of Christmas into the season of Epiphany, I invite you to carry with you all of the reminders you have received this Christmas season to let your light shine. I invite you to courageously let your light shine brightly and fully in order that God may be made known to others.

And on those days where the burdens of this world attempt to extinguish our lights, I invite you to rest in the joy and peace of the Christmas season, knowing that God has entered the world to be with us regardless of our circumstances, knowing that in God, we will always find the courage to let our lights shine.

In Christ's Peace, Pastor Elise

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The schedule is still taking shape, but 2019 will dish up a rich assortment of subjects during the adult education hour. Here is a sampling of topics that will be explored....

Oh, Susanna! She is far more than the subject of a train song! She is also a character who was originally part of the Book of Daniel. Given that her story has been described not only as "a gem," but also as "one of the finest short stories in world literature," you might find yourself wondering why her story didn't make the Bible's final cut. Pastor Erik Wilson Weiberg will introduce you to Susanna, tell you why he believes that her story is important and relevant today and will probably share his frustration that it was ever excluded. It truly is an ageless story that seems more timely than ever.

Keeping Up with the Corinthians. You have listened in on their mail for long enough! Isn't it time to learn more about this family of faith who are far more real than any family you will ever encounter on reality TV?

Them Too! Joined by various women of our congregation, Pastor Erik will offer reflections as we consider some of the key women of the Bible. Pastor Erik will provide some background information and women from our congregation will offer their personal reflections about these important heroes of our faith.

ANNUAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 27TH

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

The Ballard First Lutheran Annual Meeting will be held on January 27, 2010. 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 2019 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.

2019 BUDGET REVIEW at adult Sunday School on January 20th.

HOLDEN VILLAGE UPDATE – We were not able to secure a week for a group visit in the summer of 2019. However, you may still want to try to register as an individual/family by visiting <http://www.holdenvillage.org/>.



For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you

The Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop, NWWA Synod
From the January 2019 edition of *The Spirit*

Our Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Shelley Bryan Wee, and I had the joy of attending the Faith Action Network Annual Dinner at the Renton Pavilion. We were among the nearly 500 guests who joined the feast. There were Christians of many denominations, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Native Americans, and members representing labor, earth ministries, and immigrant rights groups. Add to this a robust representation of ethnic, racial and LGBTQ members and you start to get the picture.

The spirit was overflowing with celebration and a genuine sense of hope during what are some challenging times in our world. Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal and TV Host Rick Steves keynoted the event, inspiring those in attendance to reach the \$50,000 goal - which was matched by Rick Steves.

Pastor Shelley and I looked at each other and we both had the same thought on our minds, "This is what the Kingdom of God looks and feels like. All of God's children, from all around the world, feasting together."

"Yes, yes," we said. "This is a foretaste of the feast to come;"

The Synod Staff has been dwelling in God's word from the 17th Chapter of the Book of Luke, verses 11-21. It is the story of the Ten

Lepers who have spent their lives distanced from the community. They cry out to Jesus for mercy. Jesus tells them to overcome the distance that has long separated them from the community by going and showing themselves to the priests. "And as they went they were cleansed."

Healing always restores people back into the community from which they have been ostracized.

What has captured my heart in this dwelling is Jesus' comment in verse 21, "*For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.*"

The Kingdom of God is in the midst, in the middle, between us, and amongst us. I know in my life I have experienced the Kingdom of God when I have experienced the distance between me and my neighbor lessened - when we eliminate that which is between us and come together to break bread at the same table.

This was the joy Pastor Shelley and I were drinking in the night we joined in the feast. And like the one leper, we have returned to Jesus to give him thanks for allowing us to experience the closeness of God. The kingdom of God in the middle of God's children.

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	\$17,210.23	\$25,166.67	\$247,272.02	\$279,033.37	(\$31,761.35)
Other Income	\$6,274.01	\$8,937.50	\$190,952.30	\$152,562.50	\$38,389.80
Total Income	\$23,484.24	\$34,104.17	\$438,224.32	\$431,595.87	\$6,628.45
Expenses	\$37,422.83	\$41,054.37	\$469,624.06	\$486,769.07	(\$17,145.01)
Surplus / (Loss)	(\$13,938.59)	(\$6,950.20)	(\$31,399.74)	(\$55,173.20)	\$23,773.46

Cash Balance \$23,897.00

Savings Balance \$ 288,192.78

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 and ministry budget became Christ's hands and feet in the world: provided a nurturing place for the children of our Childcare Center, transported members to Sunday worship in our church van, held weekly Bible Study, provided space for Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, hosted the Sunday Dinner program, provided space for AA groups, hosted weekly text study for area pastors, held a church work day, participated in a confirmation retreat, financially helped support Lutheran World Hunger Appeal.

UBUNTU HOUSE

Beginning in February, Ubuntu House will be a home to older teen-aged and young adult refugees who have "aged out" of foster care but who are still in need of support and guidance. Refugees Northwest, a ministry of Lutheran Community Services, will provide case management and oversight of the residents.

We are seeking new and gently-used (in good condition) household items and furniture for Ubuntu House. 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.

- microwave
- rice cooker
- crock pots
- working television
- DVD player
- trash cans
- lamps
- broom
- mop
- vacuum
- bed frames and new mattresses
- dressers
- dining table
- chairs
- end tables
- linens, blankets and towels
- kitchen utensils, pots and pans, silverware and cutlery

SERVANT LEADERS FOR JANUARY

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



Acolytes

January 6 TBD
January 13 TBD
January 20 TBD
January 27 TBD

Assisting Minister

January 6 Chris Bloomquist
January 13 Karrin Daniels
January 20 Erin Schadt
January 27 Scott Ingham



Communion Assistants

January 6 Marit Turner, Susan Weber
January 13 Gunbjorg Ladstein, Edna Peterson
January 20 Monica Scott, Susan Weber
January 27 Joan Peterson, Kim Peterson



Counters

January 6 Jan Holm, Ramona Leer
January 13 Kris Breton, Juliet Dickens, Ken Mingeaud
January 20 Sue Clauson, Kelly Fahlman
January 27 Tina Aure, Karen Unseth, Malsolm Unseth

Lectors

January 6 Tom Tocher
January 13 Glenn Hare
January 20 Edna Peterson
January 27 Karrin Daniels



Ushers

January 6 Jenny Holm, Jeff Powers, Glenn Hare, and Amelia Hare
January 13 David Austin, Laurie Austin, Farid Chouery, and Kevin Severud
January 20 Gunbjorg Ladstein, Marcia Nelson, Jim Walker
January 27 Sylvia Vikingstad, Sherry Lemmer, Kim Peterson



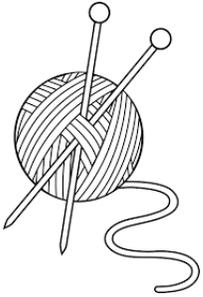
Van Drivers

January 6 Bruce Webster
January 13 Tina Aure
January 20 Ray Gooch
January 27 TBD

I CARE FOR JANUARY

I CARE SUNDAY WILL BE JANUARY 27TH FOR FOOD FOR THE POOR. One of the largest international relief and development organization in the United States, Food for the Poor ministers to the poorest of the poor in 17 countries throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. By providing lifesaving food, secure housing, clean water, healthcare, emergency relief, micro-enterprise projects and education opportunities, Food for the Poor is giving people a chance at a better future, and showing them God's love.

OUTREACH TO OUR COMMUNITY



NYER KNITTERS GATHERING, Saturday, January 12th
5:00 p.m. at the Redpath house.

Bring any hats or scarves you have made to donate. If you don't knit or crochet, please come to learn or just chat. There will be snacks.. Redpath home - 8050 18th Ave NW. Questions? Call or text Judy Redpath at 206-960-7365.



Dear Ballard First –

Thank you so much for your generosity and continued support. Your donations make a serious impact and are much appreciated. – From the Ballard Urban Rest Stop

WE ARE CONTINUING TO COLLECT SOCKS FOR THE BALLARD URBAN REST STOP, a clean, safe and welcoming facility where individuals and families experiencing homelessness use restrooms, laundry facilities and shower. New socks make such a difference. Socks may be placed in the bin in Haavik Hall.



MISSION QUILTING

Our Evening Mission Quilting Group will resume our activities on January 7th at 7:00pm. If you are curious about what we do – come on down! We meet in the Lower Social Hall the first Monday of most months at 7pm and assemble quilts until 8:30p. What skills are needed you ask? If you are able to tie a knot, you can help us! If you sew, you can take fabric home and sew a quilt top. If you

like to sort fabrics to create packets for someone else to take home and sew quilt tops—well, you can do that too! This mission not only creates quilts which are shipped all over the world, but it is a time of fellowship with each other. We would love to have you join us!

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



COFFEE WEDNESDAYS - RETURNS JANUARY 9, 2019 - (ALL LYONS)

2:30-5pm - Jan 9, 16, & 30 @ Herkimer Coffee February @ Ballard First Lutheran

Join us Wednesday afternoons for a time to hang out, work on homework and enjoy your favorite beverage on us. All friends are welcome to join. For those going to evening programs at your congregations we will gladly have carpools going to your churches.

YOUTH GROUP - WEDNESDAY NIGHTS - 8TH-12TH GRADE

Returns January 9, 2019 - 6-7:20pm - @ Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church

You're invited to try something new with us this year. We meet most Wednesday evenings and have a chance to dive into scripture and have fun doing it. Join us starting at 6 for dinner, or 6:30 for our time to hang out together in the youth room at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church. Each evening we dive into the ELCA Blog "Faith Lens." The blog looks at the Gospel from Sunday and connects it to current events and brings great discussions. This is open to ALL 8th-12th grade students to join in. **Carpools home are available after Youth Group.**

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE: BOARD GAME NIGHT! - Sunday, January 6th - 6-8pm (All LYONS)

Location: St. John United Lutheran Church

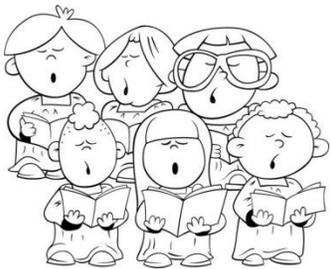
Bring your friends and join us for our first Sunday Night Live of the new year! We will enjoy dinner, a devotion, and then have a great night of playing all sorts of board games. From classics like LIFE and Clue to newer games like Fluxx and Forbidden Island there will be games for everyone. This event is for all 6th-12th grade students. We hope you will join us!

THIRD SUNDAY ADVENTURES: 5 Stop Burger Hop - Sunday, January 20th from 6-8pm (High School)

Start/End @ St. John United Lutheran Church - Cost: \$25

9th-12th Grade students, it's time for our annual 5 Stop Burger Hop! This event has students and volunteers hopping all over the city to the original 5 Dick's Drive-Ins. At each of the Drive-Ins you will have the chance to buy one item. If you choose to you can be a part of the 5 Stop Challenge: Eat one Dick's Deluxe at each of the 5 drive-ins. This event is always a fun time and a great chance of fellowship for all. All friends are welcome to join!

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 and Pastor Elise, 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

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT PHINNEY RIDGE LUTHERAN



Women and Theology: A New Perspective with Dr. Lynn Hofstad

A Women's Retreat on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, 9:00am-3:00pm \$40* includes lunch Please register by January 10, 2019 and find the registration form at www.prlc.org

How we view God has been shaped by our society, our various cultures, and predominantly male perspectives. This retreat will dive into what has shaped our images of God and expand how we interpret scripture, connect to those different than us, and deepen our personal relationships with God.

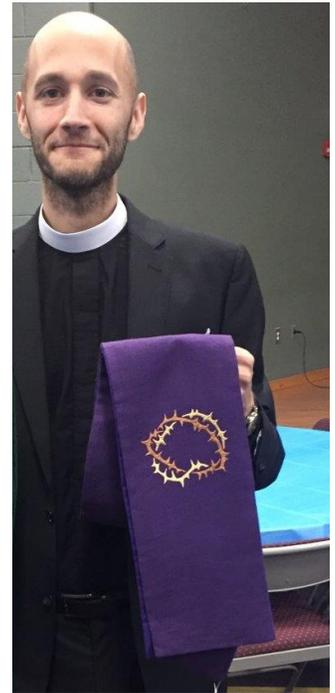
FROM VICAR (NOW PASTOR) JOSHUA



Everyone at Ballard First, I miss you! It was so wonderful to see Pastor Erik and Dale last week! The stole you all have presented me with is simply stunning – I can't wait to wear it.

I think of you all often and will always cherish our time together. When our vacation time lines up, Maddy and I will come back out to the Emerald City and say hello!

With love and in Christ, Joshua



MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY RESUMES The Wednesday Bible study will start again on Wednesday, January 16th at 12pm in Haavik Hall. New members are always welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL for ages 3-103 will resume on Sunday, January 6th, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.



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!

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, February 1st at 5:00 p.m. at MOD Pizza. No need to RSVP, just show up, order at the counter, and look for the BFL sign! Questions? Monica Scott - (803) 944-7008 or monicaskott@gmail.com.

Ballard First Friday – Looking Ahead - March 1st – (Newly Renovated) Taco Time



BFL SUPER BOWL PARTY – FEBRUARY 3RD: Please join us for Ballard First Lutheran Church’s Super Bowl Party - a night of football, fun, food, friends, and fellowship!!!

We may not know which teams will be in the game yet, but we do know this - it is sure to be a night of fun, so go ahead and mark your calendar!

Chili (both meaty and vegetarian varieties) will be provided. We will have limited beverages, so BYOB if you would like additional spirits. Bring a game time snack to share, if you would like! As always - please feel free to invite and bring any additional friends. The more the merrier!

Sunday, February 3rd • Time: TBD

Cadence Ballard’s Game Room (near the intersection of NW Market Street and 30th Ave.)
Questions? Monica Scott • 803.944.7008 • monicaskott@gmail.com