

**+ 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

9:00am Education

10:00am Worship

Coffee Hour Fellowship following Worship

BALLARD BLESSINGS

JUNE 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

Pastor Elise Scott

pastorelise@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: 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 ☞

Lauren Jensen

Edna Peterson

Dear Friends,

In the last few months, I have noticed an increasing number of bumper stickers with a simple, concise message---resist!

At first, I found this clear message of resistance to be comforting. It seemed as though seeing this one simple word reminded me that there were still people in this world who were interested in taking on issues of injustice, that there were people who were interested in the other people of this world.

But, then, one day a couple of weeks ago, I saw this bumper sticker with new eyes.

Instead of thinking about all the non-violent ways that we could resist policies that go against the common good like I usually do, I found myself wondering if in fact my tendency to internalize this mantra was actually doing me more harm than good.

What if instead of just resisting policies that seemed to go against my values, I was actually beginning to resist in all areas of my life? What if, by embracing this mantra without much forethought, I was overlooking the ways in which I need to meet life where it is and to surrender to the reality of situations whether those realities are good or bad?

At what point do we draw the line between surrendering and resisting? Where is the balance between the two? When do we surrender so that we can begin to experience new life in the midst of painful situations?

In the world in which we live, we tend to resist many of the realities of life. We resist aging. We resist dying. We resist death in general. Basically, we tend to resist anything that we may perceive as bringing us pain.

As we move from Easter to Pentecost though, God reminds us of just how important it is for us to strike this perfect balance between resisting and surrendering so that we can begin to experience new life again.

In the past few weeks, we have heard story after story of the disciples' resistance to Jesus' death and resurrection. But, Jesus meets this resistance with loving kindness, knowing that the disciples' are struggling with the very human tendency to resist death, to resist the loss of a loved one.

FROM THE PASTOR *continued*

Still though, Jesus reminds them (and us) of the importance of surrendering, of accepting not only his death and resurrection, but also his identity as the Son. And, in encouraging this surrender, Jesus promises that we will never be alone ... That an Advocate---the Holy Spirit itself---is coming to be with us.

As we move into the season of Pentecost, we can comfortably and courageously surrender to our resistance of death whether such death be metaphorical or literal. For if we have learned nothing else this Easter season, we now know more confidently than ever, that not even death can separate us from God.

Come Holy Spirit Come.

Pastor Elise

VICAR REFLECTIONS

This month I want to share a pressing issue with you! An issue that is important to me, and also to our Synod, as it was in a resolution passed the NW WA Synod Assembly this past month. It is also an issue that our Bishop, Kirby Unti, and my supervisor at Faith Action Network, Paul Benz, are deeply concerned about as well.

The T of our LGBTQ siblings is under attack. A recently proposed ballot initiative in Washington State aims to roll back long standing protections for transgendered people. This concerns us at BFL as a Reconciling in Christ faith community too!

Initiative-1552 seeks to require transgendered individuals to use the restroom of the sex they were assigned at birth, not their gender identity that they have bravely sought to realize. Experts say this will have hugely negative law enforcement and economic consequences—not to mention violating the privacy and safety of an already vulnerable group of people.

Faith leaders in WA, including Bishop Unti, Paul Benz, and many others write, “...we listen to our law enforcement and violence-prevention experts. These leaders, like former Snohomish County Sheriff John Lovick and the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, know that non-discrimination laws permitting transgender men and women to use public facilities that match their gender [identity] are not, and have never been, a threat to anyone’s safety.”

At Synod Assembly, a resolution passed encouraging all lay people, rostered ministers, volunteers, and staff within the NW WA Synod to decline to sign the petition for this ballot initiative, and in the event that it makes it onto the ballot, to vote “No.”

As Bishop Unti and others write, “We are followers of many different faiths that share a basic common tenet: love our neighbors as ourselves—including those who may seem different from us.”

Find out more here: www.washingtonwontdiscriminate.org

Yours in Christ, Vicar Joshua

PENTECOST



Sunday, June 4th is Pentecost. It is also an opportunity for you to meet our Seminary Intern for next year, Sarah Derrick. She will be joining us for worship that Sunday morning. And, remember to wear red!



Learning to Discern

By the Rev. Kirby Unti, NWWA Synod Bishop - From the June 2017 edition of *The Spirit*

Every parent knows what is right for their child. Right?

Not always!

Kim and I were quite certain we knew exactly which teacher our shy daughter Briana needed for first grade. It certainly wasn't the one that the school determined would be best. We worried ourselves over the fact that Mrs. Balka appeared to us to be so strict. How would our little one ever survive? She would be crushed and end up in a pool of tears.

Mrs Balka ended up being just the right teacher for our Briana. Her high expectations and clear sense of order is precisely what Briana needed as she was trying to learn to navigate her world. Mrs. Balka had a wonderful capacity to see the giftedness of each child. She could see the teacher in Briana.

Briana started the year with her desk in an absolute mess. Her brain wasn't yet wired for good order. Kim went in every Friday at the request of the teacher to help her learn to order it so she got off the week to a good start. By the end of the year Briana, on her own, had a very neat desk.

Briana ended up turning her bedroom (with a little help from her mother) into a classroom. The ABCs adorned her walls and she managed to come up with a desk, overhead projector, and real classroom clock. She couldn't wait to get home from school so that she could begin playing school. Briana was printing off attendance sheets, worksheets, and grading sheets a plenty. The truth is we were never quite sure whether Briana was doing her own homework or made up homework intended for her make-believe class.

Fast forward 25 years and that same daughter has now been teaching for six years. This year Briana is teaching first grade. There may well be parents who fear their child will be enrolled in her classroom. After all who do you think our daughter has modeled her teaching after? You are right if you are thinking Mrs. Balka.

Briana is also Miss Organized. Everything has its rightful place. Everything is color coded, three holed punched, and filed for quick access.

We learned an important lesson by not interfering in Briana being assigned to Miss Balka's class. We learned the importance of not allowing our own fears and prejudices to determine what might be life giving.

We call this the act of discernment in the Living Local Movement. Discernment comes only after dwelling in God's word. It comes after deep listening and beginning to see what one may not see on first impression. At first we didn't see how much Briana would gain from having a teacher with clear expectations and a helpful sense of order. We only saw "strict."

This same reality is often what prevents a congregation from seeing what God might be up to in the neighborhood. We tend to think we know who our church is and what it is we need. This can prevent us from responding to invitations that the community may be trying to extend to us. We have a tendency to get stuck in "our" ways when God might be inviting us into God's way.

There is no doubt in my mind that God is enrolling the church in a new classroom that none of us are too sure is the right classroom for us. Rather than fearing these new times, perhaps we ought to see the gifts that God has in store for us.

FROM THE CHILDCARE CENTER

The annual Silent Auction was a great success! It was a fun evening and a big thank you to the Childcare Board for providing a very delicious dinner!

We will celebrate our graduates with a Pre-K Graduation Night on June 16th. They have been practicing songs from each unit they have studied this year and will perform them for their families, before they receive their 'dipolomas' - sending them into the big world of Kindergarten! It has been a pleasure watching them grow over the years and we send them off with God's blessings.



Ms. Karen & Staff

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



Mighty Fortress Kids Camp

July 31st – Aug 4th
@ Ballard First Lutheran
9:00 – 12:00
Ages 3 – entering 5th

Join Ballard First Lutheran and Trinity United Methodist for summer fun at Kids Camp! Under the theme "Mighty Fortress" kids will learn Bible stories through daily games, storytelling, crafts, and snack. All are welcome.

\$50/child, max \$100/family
Scholarships available



More information and registration at:
www.tumseattle.org

KIDS CAMP 2017

We are in need of volunteers! Please prayerfully consider joining us for a week of fun. We especially need volunteers to help with crafts, snacks, and games! Contact Shela Meneses (meneses_shela@hotmail.com) or Lauren Jensen (laurenschadt@hotmail.com)



**Saturday, June 3rd
from 5 to 7 pm in Haavik Hall**

**A fun-filled night of games!
Light snacks will be served.**

You can save a life!

The Bloodmobile is coming to Ballard First on July 8th, 9am-3pm.

Sign up in Haavik Hall or email Sylvia at sylvia@comcast.net

Altar Care Month of June Sherry Lemmer, Chris McClure, Kristen Wilson Weiberg,



Acolytes

June 4 TBD

June 11 TBD

June 18 TBD

June 25 TBD



Assisting Minister

June 4 Karin Swanson

June 11 Nancy Fisher

June 18 Chris Bloomquist

June 25 Karrin Daniels

Communion Assistants

June 4 Rosalind Caryl, Edna Peterson

June 11 Joan and Kim Peterson

June 18 Kristen Wilson Weiberg, Mathias Fink

June 25 Edna Peterson, Lisa Laxson



Counters

June 4 Juliet Dickens, Ken Mingeaud, Kris Breton

June 11 Jan Holm, Ramona Leer

June 18 Tina Aure, Karen & Malcom Unseth

June 25 Laurie & Terry McGibbon, Ellen & Geoff Wall

Lectors

June 4 Kris Breton

June 11 Nick Host

June 18 Nancy Fisher

June 25 Tom Tocher



Ushers

June 4 Jenny Holm, Nick Host

June 11 Kim Peterson, Sylvia Vikingstad, Sherry Lemmer

June 18 Laurie Fladhus & Eric Green, Jennifer and John Schwartz

June 25 Dave Hilmoe, Gundbjorg Ladstein, Marcia Nelson



Van Drivers

June 4 Tina Aure

June 11 Ray Gooch

June 18 Dave Hilmoe

June 25 Kim Peterson

STEWARDSHIP CONNECTIONS

As many of you know, I've had my hip replaced on May 25th. I am taking a break to recover from the surgery. I'll be back to writing soon. Thank you for all your prayers.

In Peace,
Ann Maki"

FINANCIAL HISTORY REPORT

April Financial Report General Fund

	April Actual	April Budget	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance
Envelope/Loose Giving	\$28,208.84	\$20,065.84	\$115,851.57	\$108,959.37	\$6,892.20
Other Income	\$27,564.31	\$11,774.99	\$53,263.20	\$40,100.00	\$13,163.20
Total Income	\$55,773.15	\$31,840.83	\$169,114.77	\$149,059.37	\$20,055.40
Expenses	\$41,501.92	\$42,453.37	\$171,967.45	\$175,377.55	(\$3,410.10)
Surplus / (Loss)	\$14,271.23	(\$10,612.54)	(\$2,852.68)	(\$26,318.18)	\$23,465.50
Cash Balance	\$84,535.33				

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 April, 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, observed Lent and Holy Week, celebrated Easter, provided space for AA groups, Boy Scouts, Ballard Little League, LYONS, Renewal, Earth Ministry, provided space and hosted Sunday Dinner, held a Dessert Tea, Movie Night, and Easter Egg Hunt, hosted weekly text study for area pastors, mission sewing, financially helped support the Fishermen's Memorial Fund.

I CARE FOR JUNE

THE I CARE OFFERING FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE WILL BE TAKEN UP ON SUNDAY, JUNE 25TH AND THE RECIPIENT WILL BE THE COMPASS HOUSING ALLIANCE. Compass Housing Alliance provides housing, shelter and support services to people experiencing homelessness and poverty in the Puget Sound region.

The Nyer Urness House in Ballard is one of the Compass sites. Operating on a "housing first" model, Nyer Urness House provides 80 units of permanent housing to formerly homeless adults. Supportive services include case management, a medical clinic operated by Neighborcare Health on-site, daily meals and other community building resources. The community is named for the Rev. Nyer Urness, whose philosophy of meeting people where they are is a fundamental principle of the work at Nyer Urness House.



**BFL Hiking Trip
June 24, 2017**

Heather Lake Trail
Mountain Loop Highway

<http://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/heather-lake-1>

Further details to follow.

If you want to go or if you have any questions
contact Lisa Laxson.

[\(812\) 251-5071](tel:8122515071) or lisa.laxson@mac.com

Summer Hymns: Pick ‘Em!

Make a
Joyful noise
Unto The
Lord!

This year, we remember how the fire that became the Protestant Reformation was sparked five hundred years ago by a monk from Wittenberg, Germany named Martin Luther. One of the legacies of the Reformation was increased understanding and participation in the church’s life and worship among non-clergy types. In that spirit, we invite your increased participation in helping to select the hymns we sing in worship each Sunday this coming summer.

Is there a hymn that inspires a particular or poignant memory for you? Is there a hymn that reminds you of a loved one? Is there a hymn that never fails to raise your spirits? Is there a hymn that you consider to be a touchstone? Is there a hymn that causes you to think, “How can I keep from singing?” Is there a hymn that sings of your deepest hopes?

This summer, we invite you to submit your hymn requests. Please fill out, clip, and send in the form below or drop it in the offering plate. Or simply email your hymn requests to office@bflcs.org.

But also please include along with your hymn request a sentence or two (but, in the interest of space considerations, probably not more than a sentence or two) why that hymn is especially meaningful to you. We will do our very best to accommodate all requests as much as we are able!

Name _____

Hymn Request _____

Why I have selected this hymn:

ADVOCACY



2017 Seattle PRIDE March
Loving Lutherans of the Northwest
Sponsored by Open Door Ministries & ReconcilingWorks
Sunday, June 25
Downtown Seattle
Gathering time: 11:00-noon

(Parade begins on 4th Ave. Use of public transportation is highly recommended.)

SPRING SUMMITS



FAN's advocating faith communities across Washington State come together during our ANNUAL SPRING SUMMITS to talk about the issues we care about and to discuss our advocacy plans for the future. This year, there will be opportunity to meet in issue work groups and connect with people in your district. Together, we look for new ways to be more effective at creating lasting change. Come network with others from your area at the summit!

The 2017 Seattle Spring Summit will be held at Temple De Hirsch Sinai on Sunday, June 11. Please register in advance at www.fanwa.ourpowerbase.net. See you there!

COMMUNITY EVENT

Foss Home & Village presents "Story of a Holocaust Rescuer"

Join us for a riveting story and hear how "One Person Can Make a Difference!"
Sunday, June 4th at 3:00 pm
Shoreline Community College - Main Dining Room

Jeannie Opdyke Smith tells her mother's story. She is a part of a new generation of Holocaust Speakers who share life stories from their parent's first-hand experiences. For Questions or further information, contact Kim Hardwick: 206-834-2581 khardwick@fosscaire.org. You will be invited to make a gift to support the Foss mission

IN GRATITUDE

5/15/2017

STAFF AND MEMBERS,

SERENITY CIRCLE MEETING OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS WISH TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN SHARING YOUR FACILITIES IN 2016. OUR MEETING SURVIVES TODAY BECAUSE OF YOUR CARING AND GIVING SPIRIT.

WE CAN TRULY DO TOGETHER WHAT WE CANNOT DO ALONE.

THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES ALWAYS,
SERENITY CIRCLE

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4 - LYONS END OF THE YEAR BBQ**

Join us for a time to celebrate our seniors, spend time in community, and look back at all the fun things that happened this year. We will be at St John United Lutheran from 6:00-8:00pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, we'll provide the rest. All LYONS youth, families, friends, alumni, etc are invited.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11 - HIGH SCHOOL CAMPFIRE AT GOLDEN GARDENS

What better way to kick off summer than with a campfire and s'mores at the beach? Join us from 6:00-8:00pm at Golden Gardens. Don't forget a jacket or blanket in case it gets chilly.

SUNDAY, JUNE 25 - PRIDE PARADE

LYONS will be joining our congregations that are walking in this year's Pride Parade. We will be meeting at St John United and taking the bus downtown, so please bring bus fare. Meeting time is TBD, so look for it on the LYONS website or the church bulletin. All are welcome to join us!

WEDNESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL

All LYONS youth and their friends are welcome to join us after school for some time outside exploring the Wallingford Farmer's Market. We will be there from 3:30-5:00pm throughout the school year.

DISCERNMENT WORK CONTINUES – Share Your Thoughts

Dear Members and Friends,

As a reminder, Ballard First Lutheran is embarking on a period of discernment where we, together, will determine the vision and direction of the church for the future. This two-year process will include working with the congregation and reaching outward to the Ballard and Seattle communities to revise and refine the church's purpose, including our vision, mission and values. Ultimately this will result in a completed strategic visioning process, a strategic plan to implement the chosen direction, including a facilities plan, an updated organizational structure, and a long-term budget.

Right now we are in Phase 1, to gather the thoughts of those connected to Ballard First Lutheran and beyond into the Ballard and Seattle communities at large. We expect this first phase to last through the summer months. And, as always, please do reach out anytime to share your feelings and views or with any questions.

Yours in Christ,

Erin Schadt and Dave Hilmoe

eschadt@msn.com | 206-538-7577 watervet@q.com | 206-713-0690