

Sunday Morning Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship
Beginning on Sunday, July 4th

Upcoming Events

S'Mores Night - Thursday, June 17th from 6:00 to 8:00

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: David Lapse

Minister of Music: Molly Barnes

barnesma@plu.edu

Accompanist: Jim Fisher

BFL Childcare Center

206-784-1307

Director: Karen Hutchison

Executive Team

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

BALLARD BLESSINGS

June 2021

✝ BALLARD FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

These words from St. Paul in 1st Corinthians have been so helpful in enduring the challenges and hardships of this past year. When fear, sadness, and grief at the many changes threaten to overwhelm, these words from St. Paul serve as a comforting reminder that faith, hope and love abide in each of life's circumstances, that God abides with us through it all.

As we turn towards gathering together once again, these words still bring comfort and serve as a sign that we are grounded in something that is bigger than ourselves, something that helps us to meet fear with faith, despair with hope, and hate and division with God's sure love. It's true that it's been well over a year since we were last able to see each other and worship together. It's equally true, though, that Paul's words are as relevant today as when he first penned them: Faith, hope and love still abide across the church and that includes our faith community here at Ballard First Lutheran. And indeed, the greatest of the gifts that sustain us through times of both sorrow and joy is that of God's love.

And so it is in faith, hope and love that we joyfully anticipate a return to in-person worship in the very near future.

As many of you have likely heard, we will begin in-person worship again on Sunday, July 4, 2021.

Of course, at first, our return to the sanctuary will mean that worship will still not look exactly like it did the last time we worshiped together in-person in March of 2020.

Here are some changes to note:

In the beginning of our transition back to in-person worship, we will require reservations in order to provide seat assignments and ensure safe and proper distancing between households. However, some walk-in spaces will be available each week. To reserve your space in worship, please contact the church office at office@bflcs.org or (206) 784-1306 by noon on Fridays.

Each week, you will find a seating chart with your household name on it. To begin, masks will be required for all worshipers. If you forget your mask at home, there's no need to fret! We will have additional masks on hand.

At first, our worship will consist of a simple Service of the Word. This means that for the first few weeks there will be primarily instrumental music rather than congregational singing and that we will not have communion right away either.

That being said, we hope to build up to additional singing and full communion as the weeks go on. Be assured that, as we begin to enjoy this Holy Sacrament once again, we will endeavor to do so in a way that is safe. This means that, for a time, you will receive the bread and wine in individualized, pre-packaged containers.

FROM THE PASTORS cont.

Of course, we recognize that the state, local, and CDC guidelines continue to be a moving target. Thus, we request your patience, kindness, and prayers during this transitional time.

In order to worship together once again, we will need volunteers to assist with duties such as greeting arrivals, helping to usher people to their seats, and driving people to church. We also encourage people willing to perform instrumental music to let us know about that as well. This will ensure that the transition back to in-person worship is a smooth one. Please see the article in this issue of *Ballard Blessings* to learn how you can be of assistance.

We cannot wait to see you and worship with you again in person! It has been a long, difficult year, but as St. Paul writes, we are all strengthened by the gifts of faith, hope, and love and we are confident that we will experience them as we begin to come together. We are so grateful for your continued participation and support in our faith community here at Ballard First Lutheran and we look forward to seeing the many ways that God calls us to serve and live together in community in the future.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Erik and Pastor Elise

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As we look to July 4, when we return to in-person worship, and as we gradually ease restrictions in the weeks and months that follow, we want to be safe! In order to be safe, we need your help....

We are seeking **greeters** to welcome people in a **hospitable** manner as they arrive.

We are seeking **ushers** to direct people to their seats in a **friendly** manner as they enter the sanctuary.

We are seeking **drivers** to bring homebound people to church and home again in a **safe** manner as they come and go.

We are seeking **musicians** to inspire people in a **spiritual** manner as together we commune with God in body and soul.

If you can help in any of these ways, please email our parish administrator, Cindy, at office@bflcs.org or call her in the office at (206) 784-1306 between noon and 5:00 pm, Tuesday through Friday. Thanks in advance!

THANK YOU, MOLLY!

Our Minister of Music and Church Caretaker, Molly Barnes, has announced her plans to move sometime in late August or early September. She will be away from Seattle for much of the summer, returning in mid-August so as to be with us for her final Sundays as summer winds down. As her time with us comes to an end, we will hold a celebration of the care, faithfulness, excellence, and love with which she has so thoughtfully shared her ministry with us. Watch for details of that event as soon as a date is secured. In the coming months, our congregation's Personnel Committee will coordinate a candidate search in the hopes of welcoming a new Minister of Music and Church caretaker in early fall.

May Financial Report General Fund

	May Actual	May Budget	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance
Envelope/Loose Giving	\$16,131.51	\$27,166.67	\$100,449.55	\$135,833.35	(\$35,383.80)
Other Income	\$5,239.87	\$7,119.66	\$31,148.70	\$37,848.30	(\$6,699.60)
Total Income	\$21,371.38	\$34,286.33	\$131,598.25	\$173,681.65	(\$42,083.40)
Expenses	\$40,393.25	\$48,395.51	\$200,889.31	\$226,329.85	(\$25,440.54)
Surplus / (Loss)	(\$19,021.87)	(\$14,109.18)	(\$69,291.06)	(\$52,648.20)	(\$16,642.86)

Cash Balance \$13,145.89

Savings Balance \$ 264,760.00

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.

Your offerings are still very much needed. The work of the church has continued and will continue by God's grace and with your help.

How to give: Online: www.bflcs.org/give.html or by check: made out to Ballard First Lutheran Church and mailed to 2006 NW 65th St, Seattle, WA 98117

STEWARDSHIP

Last May, I offered a prayer of encouragement during this stage of the pandemic. Even though the restrictions are lifting, the challenges keep coming at us. We feel battered, bruised and our eyes are squinting in the bright sunshine. We are weary and anxious to move on. We pray:

Oh God,

Remembering You are with us every step of the way, we embrace our faith. Our faith gives us hope for the future.

Give us courage let go of our fears and to move forward in the face of uncertainty.

We pray for your perspective as we interact, responding with care and concern to others as we venture out and have more contact with one another.

Help us to love others sacrificially in these times of trial. To love one another enough to allow room for our feelings.

God, we see more and more people enduring illness, job loss and food and housing insecurity. Let us use our resources to respond to those suffering unjustly in this challenge.

Help us to practice self-control and stay solid to be an example of how to live well in the face of difficulty.

We ask that you continue to walk with us as we forge ahead.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen

In Peace, Ann Maki

GATHERINGS & FELLOWSHIP

S'MORES NIGHT! Celebrate the end of school and the beginning of summer in the church courtyard on **Thursday, June 17th**. **Drop in anytime from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.**

FIRST FRIDAY IN JULY Friday, July 2nd @ Maggie Bluffs at Elliott Bay Marina (2601 W Marina Pl, Seattle, WA 98119). We will gather at 5:00 p.m.

CRAFT & CHAT Craft and Chat will move from Zoom to the courtyard this summer. Watch the e-news blasts for more details.

SUNDAY DINNER UPDATE

Ballard Sunday Dinner Program in Transition: Leadership Needed Right Away

Last month marked 5 years that the Ballard Sunday Dinner program has been operating at Ballard First Lutheran. That's five years of meals served to anyone who could use dinner on a Sunday night. Most of the hundreds of guests over the years have been housing insecure, and many have become familiar faces.

The last 14 months of the COVID pandemic have caused a shift in service, with all meals served to go, and a smaller number of guests, but still has been a welcome and vital service. We are so grateful for the dozens of different volunteers who make this program possible! Brad Kirschner recently took over as the kitchen lead and will continue to direct the preparation of monthly meals. BFL is fortunate to have him handling this critical role.

After five years, we must step back and take a rest. Your help is needed as we shift leadership of the program.

BFL Urgently Needs to Find Volunteers to Lead "Front of House" Operations

- This is mainly making coffee, leading the setup of the station that hands out the meal and the beverage station, and cleanup after the meal service (the fourth Sunday of each month).
- It means coming to BFL (also the fourth Sunday of each month) at 4 p.m., setting up, making sure volunteers have what they need, serving, taking everything down, and cleaning up – usually by 7 p.m. When the Ballard Sunday Dinner returns to being served inside someday, operational details are a little different, but the time commitment and main responsibilities are the same.

Short of finding one or more volunteers able to quickly take over the "front of house" leadership for this monthly service, BFL's involvement in the program could draw to a close.

If you or others you know can step into this leadership role (individually or as a team), please contact Joan Peterson right away at joanmepeterson@hotmail.com or call 206-789-7447. Joan serves on the BFL Church in Community team which is helping to coordinate this effort.

Sincerely, Erin Schadt & Karrin Daniels

FROM THE CHILDCARE CENTER

We are making it through these interesting times, but hope that things can get back to 'our normal' soon. The children have been separated into their own classrooms, with very little interaction with the rest of the children in the center. We're used to being able to see our friends and chat with them freely - hopefully that time will come again soon. It will also be nice when we can laugh and smile with the children, with them being able to see our faces!

Our Silent Auction was done throughout several weeks on our front hall table. We had about a fourth of the items that we usually have - thus only taking in about \$1600 this year - but that covers the cost of the wood chips we just purchased for the playgrounds, so that is helpful :))

The childcare staff members have been wonderful throughout Covid. I think their middle name is Flexible! They have been very gracious with their time in working overtime to cover their classroom shifts as needed. Ms. Marina, one of our Pre-K teachers is retiring this month and, thankfully, we had interest in the job position for a smooth transition in the classroom. We look forward to the 2021/2022 school year!

God's Blessings, Ms. Karen & Staff

NEW SOUND FROM THE ORGAN – REPAIRS COMPLETED

Our 24 rank pipe organ at Ballard First Lutheran was installed in 1968. It had developed some problems over the years causing air leak noise and some entire ranks of pipes to become unplayable. The church council approved funds to do the most pressing repairs which were completed before Easter. A pipe organ is a wind instrument and our organ's winding system had developed some significant leaks in its leather gussets. Three wind regulators were extracted from the pipe chamber and re-leathered in an organ shop and then returned to the church.

Also repaired in the shop were three damaged pipes which are now back in place and playing again. While the wind regulators were out, a windchest was opened for repairs. (A windchest is the box on which the pipes sit; it directs the wind to the correct pipes.) Some of the pipes on this chest were not playing at all, others wanted to play all the time. Other

miscellaneous repairs were

done in the organ console and the switching system.

Many thanks to Matt Horton who enlarged the hatch into the organ chamber and to those church members who helped get these bulky regulators out and back in after the repairs.

Now that all 24 ranks of pipes are playing again, I hope you will hear the difference in worship. Gone is the hissing noise from the leaking wind regulators. I am grateful that the church decided to invest funds to make these repairs which will benefit music at BFL for years to come.



PRAYERS

For those rejoicing . . .

Taylor Hegerberg & Wyatt Smith, married on May 15th.

We welcomed Emma Rose Belcourt and Harper June Kaatz into our family of faith through the sacrament of holy baptism

For those with health issues . . .

Mary Ellen Bahlkow

Ballard First Lutheran Childcare Staff & Families

Joseph Edeskuty

Bernice Ellison

Wes Halbakken

Lily Hardy

Josie Maris

Shela Meneses,

Laurel Taylor

Celena Thomas

Sylvia Vikingstad,

For those experiencing loss . . . Peter Olsoy and his girlfriend Katie, recovering from a fire.

For those who have died and for their families . . . :

Isaac, William Hare, Melba Tengesdal

2021 GRADUATES

BFL High School Graduates, 2021

We proudly announce that four members of Ballard First Lutheran Church can claim membership in the historic high school class of 2021. They stand apart as the only senior class to have spent the bulk of their senior year and a significant portion of their junior year under Covid quarantine. This is no small feat. And so we celebrate with....

....**Erik Austin**, who is now officially an alumni of Seattle Prep and will continue in the Jesuit tradition as he begins attending Gonzaga University this fall; and....

....**Amelia Hare**, who has graduated from Seattle's Northwest School. After taking a gap year, she looks forward to attending Lewis and Clark College in the fall of 2022; and....

....**Carlton Redpath**, who is the latest in a storied group of Ballard First Lutheran members who have graduated from Ballard High School. He will attend Western Washington University in the coming fall; and....

....**Jackson Schwartz**, who is a graduate of Kennedy Catholic High School in Burien and looks forward to studying history at the University of Montana this fall.

Our deepest congratulations to each of these special young people! Join us in person at our July 11th worship service as we surround these four special young people with love, recognize this remarkable milestone in their lives, and pray God's blessings on their futures!



Seminary Graduate Jessica Zimmerle

We are proud to announce that our own Jessica Zimmerle graduated from seminary with a Masters of Arts in Religion at Seattle University on June 13. Earlier this year, Jessica was approved by our Northwest Washington Synod Candidacy Committee as a Deaconess in the ELCA. We look forward to celebrating Jessica's accomplishment in person at a future date and we anticipate her ordination into the Ministry of Word and Service of the ELCA sometime in the Spring of 2021. Congratulations, Jessica!

JUNE I CARE FOR READ-A-RAMA

THE I CARE OFFERING FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE IS READ-A-RAMA, a non-profit that uses books for children and young adults as the springboard for all program activities. We provide fully-engaged programming year-round that seeks to improve literacy, particularly for children most in need of literacy intervention. Read-a-Rama seeks to eradicate illiteracy one child and one book at a time. Send a check with I CARE designated in the memo line or go to www.bflcs.org/give.html to give online - just make sure to put the amount on the I CARE line.

IN GRATITUDE

Many thanks to Jan Holm and Sharon Lange for their hard work cleaning every surface, floor, counter, cupboard in the Haavik Hall kitchen. They spent hours on this project, including time on their hands and knees trying various methods to clean all the crevices on the floor tile. Now the kitchen is ready for future coffee hours, whenever that may be!

Children's Sunday School Sunday School for the children of BFL ages 2 to 6th grade is on a brief hiatus! We concluded the curriculum for this academic school year on May 30th. Summer curriculum will begin on July 4th. Pastor Elise will continue to email out a lesson plan and activity sheets for the 5 weeks of Summer Sunday School as usual. Information about Fall Sunday School will be announced soon! In the meantime, if you'd like for any children in your life to receive the Sunday school lessons for summer, please email Pastor Elise at pastorelise@bflcs.org so that she can add them to the Sunday School email list.

Youth Activities: For the summer, virtual Coffee Wednesdays will be morphing into Adventure Wednesdays! On Wednesday afternoons, we will embark on fun-filled adventures around the city of Seattle! The activities and dates have not been finalized yet, so please keep an eye out for additional information to be announced soon! We're also trying to plan a couple of hiking adventures and maybe even an outing to a Mariners game! It's sure to be a fun-filled summer for our youth!

S'mores Night Come celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of summer with s'mores around the fire in the courtyard on June 17th! This event will be a drop-in event from 6-8 p.m. All ages are welcome for this time of outdoor fellowship and celebration! Feel free to invite friends too!

FAMILY FAITH CORNER FROM PASTOR ELISE

Scrolling through my Instagram newsfeed this week, I noticed a post with a caption that opined there's no place better to spend summers than the state of Washington. I must say, I agree.

Summers in Washington provide beautiful weather and long days; in other words, the perfect conditions to enjoy the natural and restorative power of the awe-inspiring creation that surrounds us. Flowers grow in perfect form, mountains glisten in the sunlight, and water gently laps upon our shores.

Thus, it's little wonder that spending time in nature is one of my favorite spiritual disciplines - especially this time of year. Time in nature shapes my faith in ways that not only restore my spirit, but also grow my faith. It reminds me of the many ways God's hand cares for and provides for all of creation - not just the flowers in the fields, the birds in the sky, or the fishes in the sea, but us too!

And I know that I'm not alone in appreciating the ways in which nature shapes our faith lives. Richard Rohr writes, "Once we know that the entire physical world around us, all of creation, is both the hiding place and the revelation place for God, this world becomes home, safe, enchanted, offering grace to any who look deeply."

As we embark on summer days, I invite you and your families to wander out into nature as often as possible.

If it's just you, like it often is for me, journal about the observations you make in nature - the ways in which you experience God in your time outdoors, the ways in which God reveals God's self to you.

If it's you and several of your family members who venture out into nature together, stop when something catches your eye. Take a good look at it. Talk about what how it brings you to a sense of wonder; how it brings you joy; what draws you to it. In what ways does it deepen your understanding of God?

For young children, remind them that God makes all of us just like God makes the flowers and trees of the forest. That just as the flowers seem to be perfectly formed (the shapes and symmetry of patterns on flowers always suggest this to me) so too are we. Remind them that just as the beauty of the flowers bring people joy, God has given each of us gifts to help bring others joy. Then, talk about what those gifts, talents, and skills may be and the ways in which they can use them even at young ages to help bring joy, love, and change into our world!

Most of all, just revel in and enjoy the beauty of the world that surrounds us. Because we're luckier than most — here in Seattle we don't have to wander very far to observe the glory and majesty of God's creation.

Happy summer and happy wandering!