

Sunday Morning Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship

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

Accompanist: Jim Fisher

BFL Childcare Center

206-784-1307

Director: Karen Hutchison

Childcare: Robin Kotulka

Facilities: Tina Aure

Finance: David Austin

Personnel: Kathy Johnson

Gunbjorg Ladstein

Executive Team

President: Karrin Daniels

Vice President: Steve Redpath

Secretary: Sue Haugen

Minister of Music: Maddy Barnes

barnesmj97@gmail.com

Administrative Leaders

BALLARD BLESSINGS

October 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,

Scrolling Facebook earlier this week, I came upon the following poem, *Autumn* by Maria Rilke:

*The leaves are falling, falling as if from far up,
as if orchards were dying high in space.*

Each leaf falls as if it were motioning "no."

*And tonight the heavy earth is falling
away from all other stars in the loneliness.*

*We're all falling. This hand here is falling.
And look at the other one. It's in them all.*

*And yet there is Someone, whose hands
infinitely calm, holding up all this falling.*

Admittedly, I was probably drawn to this poem because Autumn has always been one of my favorite seasons - no doubt in large part because of the multi-colored, falling leaves that tend to surround my feet everywhere I go this time of year.

But, perhaps, it's also because I love the shortening days as well. As much as I love the long days of sunshine during the summer, by the time Fall rolls around, I'm ready for the quietness that accompanies early sunsets that fade into the canvas of starlit skies.

Despite my love for this time of year, it wasn't until I read this poem that it occurred to me that perhaps it's that feeling of falling that causes Autumn to capture my attention and my heart every year - this year, most especially so.

FROM THE PASTOR continued

As the pandemic has dragged on, it has felt a lot like we've been falling.

Falling at times into loneliness; at times, into despair.

But, at other times, falling into community and into a renewed, shared vision of the possibilities that lay before us when we finally emerge from our pandemic cocoons.

Falling, metaphorically or literally, can be scary, jarring.

At times, it's sudden and without warning and at other times, it sort of seems to happen in slow motion - as though we can see it coming and we just can't quite catch ourselves in time to prevent the fall.

But, perhaps most scary and jarring of all, is the limbo we find ourselves in as we are falling. Where will we end up? What will happen to us? Will we hurt ourselves or will we land on our feet? Of course, there's no way to know the impact the fall will have on us until we land.

Perhaps, it will be as gentle as a leaf landing on the ground or as jolting as our feet hitting the water as we fall from a diving board.

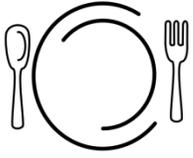
But, what is certain, is that through it all God's steadfast love and presence accompanies us with hands of infinite calmness holding us up through it all.

As we continue to arise from these days of seemingly infinite and perpetual falling, may the wisdom of Rilke's poem stay with you - reminding you that falling is a part of life; falling is something we all experience - from the leaves on the tree to the leaders of nations; and most importantly, that we never fall alone - for God's infinitely calm hands always hold us up now matter where or how we land.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Elise

I CARE FOR OCTOBER – SUNDAY DINNER



I CARE for October will support “Sunday Dinner.” Ballard First joins with other Ballard congregations and organizations to provide dinner every Sunday for people who need a meal. Like everything else, Sunday Dinner has been impacted and changed by the pandemic. No longer are the teams able to offer the hospitality of a sit-down meal in the Cross and Crown room. Those meals have been replaced with take-out dinners, served from the doorway, following safety precautions and social distancing.

This program has been operating for over five years, every Sunday at 5:00 p.m., always at Ballard First. Congregations participating are NW Christian Church, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Amazing Grace Spiritual Center, Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Ballard First Lutheran Church, and Trinity United Methodist Church.

Interested in volunteering? Contact the office at 206-784-1306 or office@bflcs.org.

This valuable program requires time and energy, as well as money! The result? - full stomachs, community and a sense of spiritual transformation for all involved.

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Ballard First Friday, October 1st at 5:00 p.m.

Broadview Tap House, 217 N 125th St.



Ballard First Fridays at Broadview Tap House with Oksar's Pizza Food Truck (217 N 125th Street) - Friday, October 1st @ 5:00 p.m.: Join us for our monthly informal, dutch-treat dinner. No need to RSVP, just show up, place your order, and look for the table with the BFL sign! The menu features pizza – both slices and full pies. Questions? Monica Scott - (803) 944-7008 or monicakscott@gmail.com. See you at Broadview Tap House!

Save the date – Friday, November 5th – at KISS Cafe!

Let Monica know if you have any suggestions for future Ballard First Friday restaurants!



Craft & Chat – Wednesday, October 20th at 5:30 p.m. We'll gather again in person in Haavik Hall to paint another watercolor of Mt. Rainier. Supplies provided – please RSVP to Monica. Questions and RSVP - Monica Scott - (803) 944-7008 or monicakscott@gmail.com. Do you have a craft you'd like to teach others? Let Monica know for future Craft & Chats!

OCTOBER YOUTH & FAMILY EVENTS

CONFIRMATION

Our confirmands will be confirmed on Sunday, October 31st, during our 10 am worship service! Please plan to attend this worship service either in person or to watch later online in order to support our confirmands as they take this momentous step of affirming their faith. To that end, they will have one final confirmation mini-retreat on Saturday, October 2nd from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

YOUTH

There are several opportunities for fun and fellowship for our youth this month!

First and foremost, we will be transitioning to holding Coffee Wednesdays at a coffee shop once again! For the month of October, we will meet at Pico Cafe and Bakery (6415 32nd Ave NW) on Wednesday afternoons. Youth are encouraged to drop by anytime between 2:30 and 5 pm for a coffee or snack on us and for fellowship, fun and games!

On October 8th, we will also be going to the Woodland Park Zoo. We will meet at the church at 1 pm and return by 5 pm. This should be a fun-filled afternoon of basking in the creative nature of God through the observation of animals from all over the world!

FAMILY EVENTS

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On October 3rd, families are invited to bring their pets to worship for **the Blessing of the Animals**. As in years past, animals will be welcome to join us in worship! However, this year, due to Covid, the service of blessing will be held following worship in the church courtyard at 11:30 am.

TRUNK OR TREAT

BFL's Annual Trunk or Treat is returning this year! This year's Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 23rd from 2 to 4 pm. Please feel free to invite any families you think would enjoy participating! If you would like to host a trunk and give out candy, please let Pastor Elise know by contacting her either by email at pastorelise@bflcs.org or by phone/text at (803) 944-7006.



For those with health concerns . . .

Marilyn Fuller
Erin Horntvedt
Pastor Lester Horntvedt
Chris Knutsen
Robyn Middleton
Dale Pederson,
Les Phillips
Gary Russell
Lois Thompson,
Sylvia Vikingstad
Henry

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

Tommy Clark,
Pr. Jeremy Fuerst
Ramona Leer
Marla Parisi
Jim Powers
Mort Sandvik
Eunice Schweppe

In thanksgiving for . . .

Sam Gooch and his bride, Amy, married this past month.

**Sunday and Wednesday Bible Study:
Four Gospels, One Jesus**

This fall, we will endeavor to become better acquainted with Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We will contrast, compare, and consider these four important books. At once like and very different from one another, they hold in common the important story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Resuming on October 10th, Sunday morning study is held in person at **9:00 a.m.** in Haavik Hall.

The Wednesday study will take place at **noon** via **Zoom**. It is hoped that we can begin to come together in person in the very near future. If you would like to participate in the Wednesday class, please contact the church office so that we may send you a link. We will cover the same material in both the Wednesday and Sunday classes, so come to the one that best suits you!

CHOIR



Greetings to BFL!

It is a pleasure and a comfort to be back in Ballard and within the Ballard First Lutheran community. I look forward to my time here, and I am excited to announce that the BFL choir is starting back up with new and improved safety measures!

We will begin our rehearsals come mid-October, and all are welcome.

Peace,

Maddy"

SOCKS, SOCKS, SOCKS



AS THE WEATHER GETS COLD AND RAINY, WE WILL BE COLLECTING SOCKS FOR THE BALLARD URBAN REST STOP. The Urban Rest Stop provides a clean, safe and welcoming facility where individuals and families experiencing homelessness can come and use restrooms, laundry facilities and shower.

New socks make such a difference. You can bring socks to worship on Sunday or to the office, Tuesday through Friday afternoon.

FROM THE CHILDCARE CENTER

We've had a great start to the beginning of our 46th year at the childcare center! We welcomed 17 new families in September, and just have a couple of openings in our young three and toilet trained classrooms available.



With the changing of our bulletin board, the children are anticipating what the fall season will bring, and are talking about what they'll "be" for Halloween! It's wonderful to be involved in these young lives and we all look forward to the fun in every day :)

Happy Fall,

Ms. Karen & Staff

HOLY COMMUNION FOR YOU

If you have decided that you are not yet ready to come to worship because of COVID-19 concerns, but would like to receive Holy Communion, you have two options. First of all, your pastors are happy to bring the sacrament to your home. Secondly, you are welcome to call and make an appointment to come to the church where the pastors would also be pleased to commune you.

Both pastors are fully vaccinated for COVID and are very intentional about observing safety protocols. Simply call or email the church office in order to set up an appointment.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

Because of the church's predisposition toward compassion and service, scammers, "phishers," and "spoofers" are increasing targeting churches and pastors to extort money from people. Please know that pastors, church staff members, and childcare staff members will **NOT** email or text you requesting gift cards or money or sensitive information.

ALWAYS verify the email or phone number to be sure that it is authentic before you click on links or respond to a suspicious email or text. Please reach out directly to us at our official work email addresses or phone numbers if you have any hesitation about an email or text that you receive!

Here is a document from our partners at the ELCA regarding security:

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Information_Security_Awareness.pdf

Once you know that you have received a phishing email or text, please also report them to your email/phone provider and the FTC (<https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/small-businesses/cybersecurity/phishing>)

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR GIACOMO TORCASO



Celebration of Life for Giacomo Torcaso

October 16 at 3pm

Sunset Bay Lodge (lower level of Ballard Elks)

For more info and to RSVP, please go to <https://giacomo.life/>