

BALLARD BLESSINGS

September 2020



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,

Despite how different the upcoming year may look, the ministries of the church continue. To that end, there are many upcoming events in the works that we hope will help provide respite and community in a trying time. Despite how different the upcoming program year may look, the ministries of the church continue. We want to keep you up to date! We also want you to know about

The **Sunday school year for children and their families** will kick off on **September 20, 2020**, with a virtual **Rally Day** as part of our Sunday service for that day! Additionally, each month, we will hold Zoom Sunday school for children (ages 3 to 5th grade) from 9:30 to 10 am on the first Sunday of the month. For the other Sundays, we will send out lesson plans for families to undertake at their convenience during the week. We also plan to provide an **online adult education experience**. Watch for news about that later this month.

After you tune in to online worship at 10:00 a.m. on **Rally Sunday, September 20**, you are invited to join in our **virtual coffee hour**. The event is still “under construction,” but watch the weekly email blasts for more details.

During this time when we practice **physical distancing** to ensure the health and safety of our community, we have endeavored to continue to provide **meaningful online worship**. We are grateful that so many of you have agreed to participate onscreen. If you would like to be involved in any way — offering a prayer, reading a lesson, contributing musically — please let us know and we will be happy to include you. Additionally, we invite you to join us in taking in these services each week and to share the services with your friends, families, and neighbors, near and far! You can share the link for worship each week on your social media accounts or just email it to people you think might enjoy it!

Youth activities will continue with **Virtual Coffee Wednesdays** from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. every Wednesday, monthly **virtual movie nights**, and other additional activities so be sure to keep your eyes open for additional details which will be released in the near future. **Project Phoenix (LYONS)** is also working on a **potential Pod project for middle and high school students** this coming school year in the hopes of providing some **face-to-face peer time for school work, fellowship, and faith formation**. An interest meeting is set for **September 9, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.** via Zoom so please plan to attend if you have middle school or high school students!

Notice the “**God’s Work, Our Hands Bingo Card**” in this issue of *Ballard Blessings*. It was generated by our “**Church in Community Team**” who concluded that, while we can’t be together in person, we remain united in our commitment to service. We love this idea! We hope you will participate.

We are pleased to announce that **Ubuntu House** is now fully occupied! **Antonio** joined **Carlos** and **Edgar** last month. He is from Guatemala. Special thanks to **Tina Aure** for her hard and thoughtful work in fostering a welcoming environment for these three new friends. It is gratifying to know that this property is once again being used as an extension of our congregation’s hospitality!

A number of people have reported that they are not receiving our congregation's **weekly email blasts** in their **inboxes**, but that they are showing up in their **spam file**. It is something of a mystery because we have not changed anything about how they are sent out. Unfortunately, our server informs us that there is nothing we can do to fix it on the sending end. In order to ensure that these emails arrive in your inbox, please check with **your individual server** as to how to adjust the way that our church emails are screened. In the meantime, please check your spam-mail for the weekly blast. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

Many of you are aware that **our parish administrator, Cindy Jackson**, is undergoing radiation treatment for breast cancer. She continues to keep **office hours** three days a week, **Tuesday through Thursday**, from **1:00 pm to 5:00 pm**. Please feel free to contact her during those days for any church business you have to conduct. She plans to keep these hours as long as her health and energy level allow.

Details are still being worked out, but we are planning to hold a **Blessing of the Bikes** on **Sunday, September 27**. Participants are invited to **worship online at 10:00 a.m.** and then pedal on over to the church parking lot where we will be on hand to bless your bicycle while practicing safe physical distancing. If feasible, perhaps we will also take a ride together.

In keeping with our annual tradition, we will also include a **Blessing of the Animals** in an online worship service in October. To that end, we invite you to submit **photos of your pets** that you would like to have included in the service! You can text the pictures of your pet to **Pastor Elise** at **(803) 944-7006** or email them to her at **pastorelise@bflcs.org** by **Wednesday, September 30**. We hope to have all the pets of Ballard First Lutheran represented!

Don't forget that Ballard First Lutheran Church now has an **Instagram account** — **@ballardfirstlutheran_seattle!** Be sure to follow us and if you have an event or activity you would like highlighted on it (for example — pictures of you serving your community as you complete the God's Work, Our Hands Bingo card), please send them to Pastor Elise!

FINALLY, BUT IMPORTANTLY: At each monthly meeting, your **church council** reviews the **current restrictions on religious gatherings**. They recognize that some church members will come back more quickly and readily than others. So it is important that they have as much information as possible about your thoughts for returning. In that spirit, the BFL **"Our Life Together Team"** has carefully prepared a **"Survey Monkey" questionnaire**. A hard copy is attached to this issue of **Ballard Blessings**. If you would prefer to respond online, a link can be found in **September email blasts** as well. Whatever form your response takes, please submit it to the church office by no later than **September 30**. Results will be tallied and made available in the first part of October.

As of this writing, we have refrained from gathering in person for six months. That is a long time. None of us could have predicted this. We pray that God will bless you with a spirit of peacefulness and patience in these uncertain and difficult times. We look to the future with confidence, trusting that it is in the hands of a loving and just God.

In Christ's Abiding Love, Pastors Elise and Erik

WE CONTINUE TO WORSHIP

Gather for Sunday worship every week by "tuning in" to the virtual service found **online on the website www.bflcs.org** or on our YouTube Channel: **Ballard First Lutheran Church – Seattle**. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ballard+first+lutheran+church++seattle.

Rally Sunday,
followed by Zoom Coffee Hour
September 20th

Blessing of the Bikes
September 27th

Blessing of the Animals
In October

WE CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE



Troubled by unrest in America? Troubled by inequality, injustice and violence in America? Faith Action Network exists to help us find faith-based information and actions to tackle these problems. Go to <https://fanwa.org/> for more info, or call BFL member Joan Peterson at 206 789 7447 to find out more.

With the recent news that the Trump administration is ending the 2020 Census on Sept. 30, a month earlier than planned, we have much to do to make sure that the 28% of people in King County who are historically undercounted and underrepresented get counted! We have materials to help you do that. Please email FAN@fanwa.org if you have a way to get flyers out in communities of color, to immigrants, elders, and people with small children.

WE CONTINUE TO NEED YOUR SUPPORT

August Financial Report General Fund

| | August Actual | August Budget | Year To Date Actual | Year To Date Budget | Year To Date Variance |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Envelope/Loose Giving | \$20,652.71 | \$19,262.95 | \$181,430.09 | \$207,570.22 | (\$26,140.13) |
| Other Income | \$5,443.68 | \$8,611.66 | \$105,000.40 | \$113,583.28 | (\$8,582.88) |
| Total Income | \$26,096.39 | \$27,874.61 | \$286,430.49 | \$321,153.50 | (\$34,723.01) |
| Expenses | \$38,957.95 | \$47,980.46 | \$318,819.08 | \$362,772.32 | (\$43,953.24) |
| Surplus / (Loss) | (\$12,861.56) | (\$20,105.85) | (\$32,388.59) | (\$41,618.82) | \$9,230.23 |
| Cash Balance | \$37,381.08 | | | | |
| Savings Balance | \$ 283,126.10 | | | | |

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

By check: made out to Ballard First Lutheran Church and mailed to
2006 NW 65th St
Seattle, WA 98117

WE CONTINUE TO SHARE NEWS

Ballard First Lutheran e-newsletter

Stay connected with the weekly e-newsletter. If you'd like to be added to the e-news list, please email the office at office@bflcs.org.

Not receiving the weekly emails? Make sure to check your spam folder to make sure the email is not landing there.

New Address - Liv Froli has moved to a memory care facility in Lynnwood. Her new address is: 6024 200th St. SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036 and her phone number is 425-673-7111.

The church office hours at this time are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1:00 until 5:00.

WE CONTINUE TO VALUE COMMUNITY



New! Online Chat & Craft the second Wednesday of the month, from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Join us on Zoom the second Wednesday of each month for a moment of community. Bring any crafts you've been working on and catch up with your BFL friends! Crafting is *not* a requirement, by the way – all are welcome to join in and share how you're doing, what

you're up to, and get together online for some community.

Watch for the e-newsletters for the link to the Zoom event. Don't get the weekly emails? Make sure to send your email address to office@bflcs.org and we'll get you on the list!

CHILDCARE CENTER

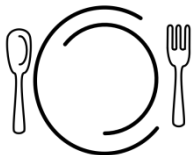


The childcare center has just begun its 45th year, in caring for the children of our community! We welcomed twenty new children on September 1st, as we started off our new school year. We do still have several spaces in our young three year old classroom, if you might know of a family looking for care for that age group.

Covid 19 has us living our lives a bit differently, but we have continuously provided care for the families in need of care. Our dedicated staff has been supportive and helpful with the extra chores, and with the need for being careful with health precautions, during our days. The gals are also making their best effort to have the children social distance when it's possible, with several children wearing masks daily. I am thankful for their continued participation in making the center a safe place during these times.

God's Blessings, Ms. Karen

WE CONTINUE TO OFFER MEALS AND HOSPITALITY



Sunday Dinner

Like everything else, Sunday Dinner has been impacted and changed by the pandemic. No longer are the teams able to cook hot meals and offer the hospitality of a sit-down meal in the Cross and Crown room.

Those meals have been replaced with take-out "sack dinners," served from the doorway, following safety precautions and social distancing. The number of guests has averaged 40 each week, with a high of 52. The teams have been creative in their meals. Guests have enjoyed Italian subs, cubano sandwiches, roasted chicken, and hamburgers. A vegetarian option is always offered.

This program has been operating for over four 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.

It is unclear what the procedure will be put in place once the weather does not allow for outdoor serving. Interested in volunteering? Contact Karrin Daniels: karrindaniels@msn.com, 206-724-7162.

For those with health issues . . .

Louise Cobb
Margaret Ada and Earl Devine,
Dee Hawkes
Cindy Jackson
David Johnston
Corrie Lovett
Janet McKee
Colin Manderson
Josie Maris
Bob Marshall
Katie O'Neil

Ron
Celena Thomas,
Mary Torcaso
Marit Turner
Carole Underhill
Angie Villegas
Donna Voorheis
Susan Weber
Suzanne Wood,

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

Carol Buschmann,
Jean Lennartson
Gerry Mills
Marla Parisi

Pastor Ron Soine
Giacomo Torcaso
Jim Wiger

As we rejoice with: . . . :

Emily Olsoy and David Mershon as they began their marriage on Friday, July 10th.
Pastor Jim Lehman, friend of Pastor Erik, retiring after 40 years of ordained ministry.
Joshua Menke, boyfriend of Sarah Derrick, as he begins ordained ministry;

We welcome Maisie Lee Jensen into our family of faith through the sacrament of holy baptism.
Maisie's parents are Josh and Lauren Jensen. The baptismal sponsors are Heather Dunning and Eric Pfaff.

Dear BFLC Family,

Thank you all for the care, support and prayers you have shown me these last few weeks as I have recovered from surgery for breast cancer. I've appreciated the cards, the phone calls, and the delicious meals you so generously brought to me. The pathology report is encouraging and recovery is going well, for that I am grateful.

Thank you, Cindy

WE CONTINUE TO CARE

Remember I CARE Sundays? The walk up to the basket on the fourth Sunday of month to make a special donation to a philanthropic organization? Ah, those were the days. **September I CARE Month will support the Education Equity Fund.**

The Education Equity Fund of Alliance for Education supports Seattle Public School students in accessing the technology, technical support and additional learning resources required to continue to learn during the COVID-19 crisis. Many SPS students lack the resources and access to take advantage of this support. This fund will help students overcome technology barriers and allow all students the opportunity to continue learning from home during this global pandemic. 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.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

COVID-19 has turned the world upside down; and no one is immune to the pandemic, not even Ballard First Lutheran. In years past, we have observed the Lutheran Day of Service—God's Work, Our Hands—by committing our talents, times, and treasures to others in need.

However, physical distancing makes volunteering hard. Nevertheless, the need is great. Therefore, the Church in Community committee has developed this *God's Work - Our Hands* Bingo Card with ways your family can help others and also participate in the Day of Service.



LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICES NW

Please Help: Hygiene Donations Needed

Lutheran Community Services NW (LCSNW) is asking for your help to donate new, unopened hygiene items to support multicultural neighbors in King and Snohomish Counties experiencing crisis due to COVID-19.

Requests for basic need resources such as emergency food, rental assistance and personal hygiene items have grown significantly, and we are working to keep our free community pantries in Everett and SeaTac stocked.

- Diapers (*child and adult*)
- Baby wipes
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Bar soap
- Deodorant (*men and women*)
- Face masks
- Hand and body lotion
- Hand sanitizer
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Razors (*men and women*)
- Shaving cream (*men and women*)
- Maxi pads

To coordinate a hands-free drop off of your donation, contact: Andrea Simmonds, asimmonds@lcsnw.org.



BALLARD FOOD BANK Ballard Food Bank temporarily closed drop-off donations as we implemented our new drive-thru food bank. But we have an urgent need for some specific items and welcome our community's support. We are asking donors to come through the Ballard Food Bank parking lot during our preferred donation drop-off times.

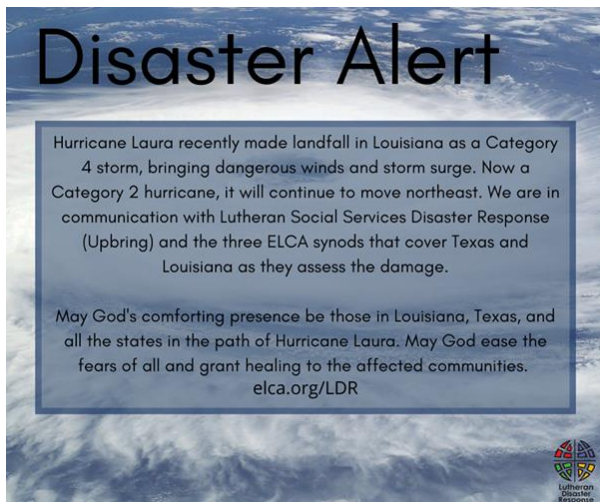
Preferred Donation Drop-Off Times:

Monday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm Wednesday 8:00 am – 10:30 am
Tuesday 8:00 am – 10:30 am Thursday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Our most-needed items right now:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Soups and chili | Top Ramen or Cup a Noodles |
| Peanut Butter | Individual Oatmeal |
| Mac and Cheese | Individual cereals |
| Canned Tuna, Chicken or Salmon | |

Thank you for helping us secure these crucial food items! When you stop by, please enter through our front gate and follow guidelines around social distancing. We are also requesting donations through our [Amazon wishlist](#). As always, we are incredibly grateful for the support of our neighbors.



Lutheran Disaster Response

While the extent of the damage caused by Hurricane Laura is not yet known, we will accompany devastated communities from immediate relief through long-term recovery. This is our commitment as a church.

To make a gift that will help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes, visit <https://community.elca.org/hurricane-relief>