

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

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

Minister of Music: Maddy Barnes

barnesmj97@gmail.com

Organist: David Lepse

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

September 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.

Ever since we began in-person worship on Independence Day, it has been gratifying to see more and more of you. I also know and respect that there are others among you who do not yet feel comfortable about returning to in-person worship. If that is the case, I hope you are able to avail yourself of our online recordings of the service. Now more than ever, whether in-person or online, it is so important to avoid isolation by connecting to communities of support and by communing with God.

Though we have by no means returned to our pre-COVID practices, we have made a few changes in that direction. While we do keep a number of pews empty so as to allow for safe distancing, we do not assign seats like we did to begin with. We have also evolved from not offering Holy Communion... to offering "communion to go..." to communing together in worship. And we are now singing, though we remain masked while doing so.

Some of you have raised questions about making reservations for worship. Why is that necessary? It's a fair question.

First, please know that we are not requiring that people make reservations, but are only asking.

Second, we are not asking people to make reservations due to a shortage of seats. There will be plenty of room for everyone who wants to come.

Third, the **only** reason we ask for reservations is because it is necessary for us to have a weekly accounting of the people who attend worship. Should someone who has worshiped with us discover that they have tested positive for COVID-19, it would be our civic and moral responsibility to inform all who came into contact with that person while under our roof and let them know about that. For that reason, our ushers are responsible for compiling a list of everyone who comes to worship each week. That can be a challenge when a number of people all arrive at the same time. By asking for your reservations, we are able to get your contact information in advance and thus make it easier for the ushers to provide an accurate list.

So, please don't stay away simply because you have not made a reservation. But please do check in with the ushers when you arrive.

I look forward to the day when it is not necessary for us to observe so many protocols. And I anticipate more changes to come, hopefully easing the restrictions. But, in the meantime, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your patience and generosity during these sometimes challenging, sometimes maddening, sometimes annoying, sometimes grievous, sometimes perplexing, but also somehow always grace-filled days. Now, more than ever, difficult as it may sometimes be, it is important to remember that..

...God is good.

Pastor Erik W2

HOLY COMMUNION

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.

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Farewell, Minister of Music, M. Barnes!

Welcome, Minister of Music, M. Barnes!

As you have probably heard by now, Molly Barnes has resigned as our church's Minister of Music and Caretaker. She is moving on to the next vocational chapter in her life (and also attending to the small matter of joining her fiancée, Aron, in planning their wedding, which will take place next summer). What you might not yet have heard is that Molly's sister, Maddy Barnes, has moved back to Seattle and has recently accepted an offer to serve as both our Minister of Music and our Church Caretaker. Molly will remain on our staff into September and Maddy has now begun her work among us. This allows for some important overlap time and thus eases the transition. Mark **Sunday, September 26**, on your calendar now! That day, we will honor both of these gifted women at a special reception after worship. We will pay tribute to Molly, as we celebrate and show thanks for the excellence, faithfulness, and creativity with which she has served among us (you are welcome to bring cards and other expressions of appreciation for her). We will also welcome Maddy as the torch is passed from sister to sister!

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

At its August Meeting, the Ballard First Lutheran Church Council voted to cancel the Annual Meeting that had been re-scheduled from last January to this coming October 3. They did so for two reasons, both of them related to COVID-19. First of all, there was concern to minimize risk of COVID-19 or one of its variants for people who would potentially attend. Secondly, the council took into account the very real concern that we would not be able to form a quorum due to concerns about the virus. The Council hopes to elect a slate of temporary council officers and leaders at the November meeting in the hope that they can be ratified by the congregation at a January 2021 Annual Meeting.

PRAYERS

For those with health issues . .

Margo Bjornsson
Linda & John Clark
Jan Holm
Emily LaFave
John Lennartson and his wife,
Virginia

Lydia Louie
Robyn Middleton
Gail Morley
Alfred Pearson
Dale Pederson
Laurel Taylor
Lois Thompson,

Sylvia Vikingstad

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

Edward and Dorothy Jacobsen
Larry Lange
Charlotte Roe

Ballard First Friday, September 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

Katsu Burger, 2034 NW 56th St, Seattle, WA 98107



Join us for our monthly informal, dutch-treat dinner. Our next gathering will take place on Friday, September 3rd at 5:00 p.m. at Katsu Burger! No need to RSVP, just show up, order at the bar, and look for the table with the BFL sign! The menu features Japanese fusion burgers --- hand-formed, miso seasoned, Japanese breaded, American sized, and American fried goodness. You'll find the items on their menu deliver the taste of Japan, with the restaurant roots of Seattle.

Questions? Monica Scott - (803) 944-7008 or monicakscott@gmail.com. See you at Katsu Burger!

Stay tuned for October's location! Let Monica know if you have any suggestions for future Ballard First Friday restaurants!

**SEPTEMBER FELLOWSHIP EVENTS****Let's watch a S.T.R.U.M. performance before the summer is over!**

Wednesday, September 8th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.: S.T.R.U.M. (Seattle's Totally Relaxed Ukulele Musicians) holds their weekly song circle at Salmon Bay Park on Wednesdays in the summer from 5:00- 7:00 PM! Let's meet up to enjoy their beautiful music at the park. Bring a snack and join us for a fun evening of fellowship and music. (Bring your own chair or blanket.)

Drinks at Canal

Wednesday, September 24th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The Canal, 5300 34th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107 (next to the Locks)

The wedding and events venue has been shut to the general public since 2019, but they reopened this summer and serve both beer and wine (21+ only though). Let's meet up for a happy hour. You can bring your own food, or have food delivered. Sometimes, there are food trucks, but that information is not yet available.



This past summer, our youth had many fun Seattle Adventures! Some of the activities included a photo scavenger hunt at Pike Place Market, exploring the Ballard Locks and the newly re-opened fish ladder, playing miniature golf, boating on Green Lake and a biking along the Elliott Bay Trail!

With summer over, we are already planning our fall events. Please go ahead and mark your calendars for the following dates and activities! As always, any students between the ages of 6th and 12th grade are invited to attend and students are always welcome and encouraged to bring friends! Because we want to keep our students safe and healthy, we will strictly follow all Covid-19 guidelines and recommendations at all events.

Fall Youth Schedule (Additional details for each event to come including times, meeting places, etc.)

- 9/19 - Fremont Ice Cream Cruise (Meet by MOHAI at 2:15 p.m. in order to catch the 3 p.m. ice cream cruise)
- 10/8 - Trip to the Zoo (To celebrate no school and the ministry of St. Francis of Assisi)
- 11/7 - Family Fun Center (Assuming no surge and vaccinations for all youth by this point; We will change this event if necessary)
- 11/21 - Make Care Packages for BFL College Students as they head into exams
- 12/19 - BFL Youth's Annual Christmas Party

In addition to the above events, we will resume Coffee Wednesdays on Wednesdays of the fall semester/quarter starting September 8th. Please note, however, that there will be no Coffee Wednesday on November 24th, December 22nd, or December 29th due to holidays.

Fall Events

Our fall events will kick off with Rally Day on September 12th including Blessing of the Bibles and Blessing of the Backpacks! We are still working out the details for Rally Day, so please be on the lookout for additional details to come!

Then, on September 18th, we will celebrate God's Work, Our Hands Day by volunteering at Food Lifeline from 9 am to 11:30 am! All people ages 12 and up are encouraged to come and participate in this day of service!

October also offers us several fun events!

First, we will have the Blessing of the Animals on October 3rd.

Then, on October 23rd, we are bringing back the Ballard First Annual Trunk Or Treat from 2 to 4 p.m. Please let Pastor Elise know if you are able to participate by using the trunk of your car to give out treats to the children and youth of our church, our Childcare Center, and the greater Ballard community! If you'd like to help in this way, please email Pastor Elise at pastorelise@bflcs.org or text or call her at (803) 944-7006.

Finally, we are still working on a date for the Blessing of the Bicycles and our annual bike ride that accompanies that service so stay tuned for additional information on this event as well!

We hope to see you at some or all of these fun activities this fall as we seek to serve God and build relationships within our community!

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

Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion (The unlikely heroes of the Wizard of Oz). Groucho, Chico, Harpo, and Zeppo (The Marx Brothers). Frodo, Sam, Merry, and Pippin (The hobbits of the Lord of the Rings). Michelangelo, Donatello, Raphael, and Leonardo (The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles). George, Abe, Teddy, and Thomas (The Presidents on Mount Rushmore). And, of course: John, Paul, George and Ringo (I don't think you need me to supply the name of this particular group). What do they have in common? They are all "famous foursomes."

But the foursome that has perhaps stood the test of time far longer than any other is that of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (the *real* Fab Four). But who are they really? And what is a Gospel, anyway? And do we really need *four* of them? This fall, we will explore these questions - and many more - as we endeavor to become better acquainted with Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Beginning **Wednesday, September 15** and **Sunday, September 19**, 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.

Some important details: To begin with, the **Sunday morning study** will be held in person at **9:00 a.m.** in Haavik Hall. Because of the uncertainty of the Coronavirus, it may prove necessary to switch to Zoom. To begin with, **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!

2021 GRADUATES



High school graduates from Ballard First Lutheran, Class of '21

Erik Austin

Amelia Hare and her cousin, Kendall Hare

Carlton Redpath

Jackson Schwartz

Dear BFLC Quilters, Thank you for the quilt! I will be sure to take it with me to Montana so I can stay warm!

Jackson Schwartz

Dear Ballard First Lutheran Church, Thank you for the college send-off, amazing quilt, and kind words. I would like to give a special thanks to the quilting committee as they have given me a beautiful quilt that will come in handy this winter in Spokane. It was nice to attend one last service before I head off to college in person. Thanks once again. Sincerely, Erik Austin

July Financial Report General Fund

	July Actual	July Budget	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance
Envelope/Loose Giving	\$22,349.04	\$27,166.67	\$143,117.33	\$190,166.69	(\$47,049.36)
Other Income	\$1,666.19	\$8,119.66	\$94,835.48	\$105,587.62	(\$10,752.14)
Total Income	\$24,015.23	\$35,286.33	\$237,952.81	\$295,754.31	(\$57,801.50)
Expenses	\$33,310.92	\$42,063.01	\$269,510.16	\$308,655.87	(\$39,145.71)
Surplus / (Loss)	(\$9,295.69)	(\$6,776.68)	(\$31,557.35)	(\$12,901.56)	(\$18,655.79)
Cash Balance	\$47,149.21				
Savings Balance	\$ 265,026.80				

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.

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

I CARE – LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**HELP FOR HAITI - LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**

A devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti on Saturday morning. Over 1,400 people were killed, and that number is expected to increase as search-and-rescue efforts continue. The full extent of damage is still unknown. Haiti is also suffering through a political crisis and was hit by Tropical Storm Grace on Monday night, which caused severe flooding in communities already damaged by the earthquake.

Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with partner organizations in the communities to meet relief needs, including food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter. In the future, other areas of support will include psychosocial care, water and sanitation, and creating sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and livestock. We also stand with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti as it assesses damage and impacts on churches and church life.

[Your gifts will support earthquake survivors in Haiti. Gifts to “Haiti Crisis” will be used in full \(100%\) to assist those affected by the earthquake.](#)

HELP REGISTER VOTERS

Your Church in Community team has organized an opportunity for BFL to help with Voter Registration on Thursday, September 28th at Nyer Urness House, 1753 NW 56th. Volunteers are needed for two shifts, from 1 to 3pm and 3 to 5pm. Please contact Joan Peterson: PH: 206 789 7447 (no texts) or joanmepeterson@hotmail.com.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

BALLARD FIRST LUTHERAN TO PARTICIPATE IN DAY OF SERVICE AT FOOD LIFELINE

Ballard First Lutheran will participate in the 2021 Lutheran Day of Service—"God's Work. Our Hands."—by volunteering once again at Food Lifeline on Saturday, September 18, 9-11:30 AM. During our work session, we will sort and repackage food at the Food Lifeline warehouse. Volunteers 10 years and older can participate. The warehouse has enough room for social distancing. Volunteers must wear masks and closed-toe shoes at all times. A warm layer—jacket, sweatshirt, or hoodie—is recommended.



Follow this link to register. <http://ballardfirstlutheranchurch.foodlifeline.volunteerhub.com/>

Glenn Hare is coordinating our Day of Service and can register congregates who need assistance. Contact him at (864-367-5665) hare10grancola@gmail.com.

Parents/Guardians must complete and present the consent form upon arrival at Food Lifeline. <https://foodlifeline.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Parent-Consent-Form-2021.pdf>



The Ballard First Lutheran van will take volunteers to the warehouse, departing at 8:15 AM on September 18. Volunteers providing their own transportation will meet at the Food Lifeline Hunger Solution Center, 815 S 96th Street, Seattle WA, 98108.

Food Lifeline provides nutritious food to hundreds of thousands of people facing hunger every year by sourcing healthy food from a variety of food industry partners. Food Lifeline distribute this food through 300 food banks, shelters, and meal programs throughout

Western Washington.

Family Faith Corner: The Gift of Giving!**Pastor Elise**

A couple of weeks ago, I was talking with a parent in our church about possible ideas for rally day. We had been talking about the idea of a drop-in rally day to ensure the children of the congregation stay safe when she suddenly exclaimed, "We should have an offering station!" She went on to explain how much her children love the physical act of putting something in the offering plate.

I thought it was a great idea and I continued to ponder it for the next few days! But, what really struck me was at what a young age we start comprehending the importance of giving. It's as though we innately know that God has given us gifts to share with others so that everyone in the world can experience God's love and grace!

Of course, as we grow up, we sometimes forget this. We get bogged down with the bills we have to pay and all that we have to do. Thus, sometimes we feel as though we have nothing left to give whether it be gifts of money, time or even our talents.

I assume that it's because of the way we often feel so stretched for time and money that tithing is such an important spiritual practice. It reminds us that all that we have (our time, our talents, our money) are ultimately gifts from God to be used in service of God and thus, in this spiritual discipline, we focus on the giving of our first fruits to God.

We are never too young or too old to hone this spiritual practice! In reality, it's one of the hardest spiritual practices there is: it requires us to trust God that somehow our finances will stretch to cover all of our expenses and our time will stretch to cover all that we have to do. And yet, somehow through this process of trusting, our relationship with God strengthens and builds as we learn to be more reliant on God and less reliant on ourselves. But, not only that, it really helps us to live into our tagline here at BFL - we are blessed to be a blessing! In other words, it helps us to live into God's economy rather than the earthly economy that we usually inhabit!

A great way to teach this spiritual discipline to children (and it's good for adults too) is to get piggy banks that are divided into three categories: give, save, spend. These piggy banks teach children of all ages how to be good stewards and managers of the money they receive. I, unfortunately, didn't get one of these piggy banks until my early twenties but even then the visual effect it gave along with the physical act of placing the money into these categories totally transformed my relationship with money and ultimately, my relationship with God.

In the coming month, no matter your age, I invite you to think of the ways in which you steward your time, money, and talents. How do you divide out the giving, saving and spending slices? Are there ways in which God is calling you to bless others with the blessings you've been given? If so, what giving opportunities are out there for you? And if you have or know of young children who might benefit from a piggy bank that divides itself up between giving, saving, and spending, maybe you can gift them with such a piggy bank! Who knows how it will change their lives?

Maybe, just maybe, by participating in this spiritual discipline all of us can rediscover the childlike joy that accompanies making a glad and generous contribution as we place gifts from our hearts into the offering plates of the world!



Dear Ballard First,

In so many ways, BFL has been my home. You have baptized me, been my Sunday School teachers, my babysitters, my mentors, my family, and my friends. You have given me a job and a place to live. When my parents and brother moved on to their next adventure, you and this church building were what rooted me to what I will always consider my beautiful home—this city that I love. When I found my life partner, you welcomed him into your community with open arms. You have supported me, challenged me, loved me, and helped me to grow. I can't think of any more ways that could qualify a home.

As was announced earlier this summer, I am coming to a close on my time at BFL as Minister of Music. I will be starting some big, new life adventures. I am moving, getting married, and taking my next vocational steps forward as a teacher and performer.

I always knew this would be a difficult resignation letter to write. For me, in this job, the line between personal and professional has been a blurry one. This makes it all the harder to say goodbye. However, while challenging and unconventional, this blurriness has been the unique and wonderful gift of this job for the last six years. Because this job has been so personal for me, I, admittedly, have put off writing this letter because I knew it would be difficult. In communicating this to Cindy, she suggested I write down some of my favorite memories. So—here are six of my favorite things from the past six years:

1. **Thursday nights.** I have never looked forward to any rehearsal schedule as much as I looked forward to Thursday nights with the choir. I will miss the laughs, the love, and the hard work we did in that room. In the words of ABBA: thank you for the music.
2. **Jim, Ed, and David.** Without these three people, I quite literally would not have been able to do my job. They are experts in what they do, and I have never said thank you enough for all of their time, talent, teaching, mentorship, partnership, and guidance.
3. **New groups.** Thank you, youth-choir, spiritual choir, handbell players, strings, and soloists for bringing your many gifts forward. Thank you for welcoming me, and, more times than not, teaching me to sit back, get out of the way, and let the music happen. You are amazing.
4. **Church Staff.** It's actually very fun when the people who knew you as a kid become your bosses ☺. I have loved working alongside Pastor Erik, Pastor Elise, Pastor Laurie, all the awesome interns, Cindy, Matt, Dale, and the whole BFL team. Thank you for being patient with me and walking that line between friend and colleague so well.
5. **Collaborating with Grace Chinese Lutheran Church.** What a gift it has been to collaborate with Pastor Jimmy and the congregation at GCLC. I will dearly miss that collaboration and am grateful for our togetherness especially during that first virtual Holy Week. What a gift it was to be together when we had to be apart. I send them all my love.
6. **Sunday Mornings.** I will miss these the most. Whether it be piling into the choir loft, enjoying community in Haavik Hall, running around in preparation for Easter, or seeing you all on the TV screen, I will miss that dear ritual of coming together at BFL on Sunday mornings. These memories are close to my heart.

In wrapping up my time here, the words of my favorite hymn ring true for me as they do during all moments in my life—the big, the small, the endings, the beginnings, and the unknowns:

“O God Beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay. For, we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end; we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.” -ELW 880

It has been both a gift and blessing to be here with you; here in this place where I first learned of God's love. Here in this place where you have showed it to me time and time again. And, while I wait upon God's word, I will be lifting my heart in thanks and praise, just the way you've showed me all of these 28 years.

In God's love,-Molly