

BURLINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

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118th Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

BLC's MISSION

Being God's Love in our Communities

OUR VALUES

Engaging - BLC follows Christ's call to love our neighbor, working for justice for all creation in our local and global communities.

Inclusive - BLC welcomes and affirms joyfully all who are seeking to be in a faith community; leadership opportunities are open to all.

Reforming - BLC lives the Lutheran faith, transforming in fresh, creative, courageous ways, resonating with a changing world.

Relational - BLC builds strong relationships within our faith community, celebrating our age-diversity, meeting needs across all stages of life.



Staff

Sean Bendickson, Worship & Music Leader
Lynne Berg, Organist
Grant Burwash, Children and Youth Coordinator
Randy Dalaba, Custodian
Elly Pederson, Nursery Attendant
Jacob Pitman, Office Administrator
Linda Rudy, Financial Secretary
Charis Weathers, Pastor

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AGENDA

SIGN IN

CALL TO ORDER – Rochelle Hill, declaration of quorum

OPENING LITANY – Pastor Charis

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Additions to the Agenda

REPORTS

1. 2023 Year to Date Financial Report (John White)

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of Congregational Meeting Minutes for September 25, 2022

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2024 Financial Budget -Review, Q & A, Vote to approve ([John White](#))

2. Election of 2024 BLC Council Members (*Denotes proposed council member)

President: John White
Treasurer: Millie Fosberg

Vice President: Unknown
Secretary: Janice Burwash

At-Large Members:

*Mary Nolte (fill remaining 2-year term) Eva Yeoman (1 to 2-year term)
Nancy Hill Hoffman (1 yr remaining) David Svaren (1 yr remaining)
*Kathleen Hasselblad
*Erin Rozema
*Pam Dix

3. Election of Delegates

- a. Northwest Washington Synod Assembly Representatives
 - i. Two Lay Voting Delegates for May 2024 Synod Assembly
- b. Josephine Delegates (Annual meeting April 2024) David & Lisa Svaren
- c. Lutherwood Delegates (Annual Meeting January 2023)

4. Recognition of retiring Council Members and delegates

- a. Rochelle Hill: Outgoing president and served 5 consecutive years on council
- b. Jeremy Dierst: Retiring after serving (3) years on council

5. Visioning for BLC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT

OPENING LITURGY

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

We offer our prayer.

Move in our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

We offer our prayer.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

We offer our prayer.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

We offer our prayer.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

We offer our prayer.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

We offer our prayer.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

We offer our prayer.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Annual Meeting of Burlington Lutheran Church

Burlington Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Meeting / September 25, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 11:24 am by Council President Grant Burwash who declared that there was a quorum of members present.

He announced a fundraiser for Jerry Butterfield that was taking place later in the day at Railroad Pub & Pizza.

Pastor Charis Weathers led the group in an opening litany.

There were no additions to the agenda as presented. Grant explained that the September Annual meeting date is in line with the changes to the BLC constitution that were adopted at a congregational meeting on January 16, 2022. There will now be one meeting in September rather than meetings in both November and January. It may take a year of this new schedule for church reports and minutes for approval to catch up with this change in procedure.

Treasurer, John White gave an update on the 2022 budget, year-to-date. He observed that income is still down—as attendance and giving are not yet back to pre-pandemic levels, but spending is also lower than budgeted. He noted that we have been paying too much property tax on the parking lot property across from the church, and he thanked Linda Rudy for her work on getting a refund on past overpayments and for getting this property tax lowered going forward. He also shared that Linda and Office Admin Emma spent time researching photocopier options, and we now have a lower rate on our leased copier.

New Business:

John presented the 2023 budget. He noted the budget process, which begins with the Budget and Finance committee looking at twelve month's actual income and expenses, projecting the next year's income and expenses, and then presenting two proposed budgets for the council's consideration. The 2023 proposed budget as presented to the congregation was the unanimous choice of the church council. It is \$17,811 less than the 2022 budget, but still relies on using \$27,698 from reserve funds. A portion of the reduction is in reduced hours for the office admin and worship & music leader—which reflects that we now have a full-time pastor. It was MSC (moved, seconded, and carried) to accept the 2023 proposed budget as presented by the council.

It was MSC to accept the following slate of officers and members-at-large for the 2022 church council:

President: Rochelle Hill

Vice President: Brad Dana

Treasurer: Linda Rudy

Secretary: Janice Burwash

At-Large Members

Jeremy Dierst (1-year term)

John White (2-year term)

Nancy Hill Hoffman (2-year term)

Eva Yeoman (1- to 3-year term)

David Svaren (2-year term)

Millie Fosberg (3-year term)

It was MSC to elect Jeremy Dierst, and Phil Kuykendahl, and Eva Yeoman as BLC's delegates to the 2023 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly.

It was MSC to elect David and Lisa Svaren, and Heidi Yeoman as representatives to Josephine Continuing Care Community.

It was MSC to elect Jeremy Dierst and Nate Yunge as BLC's representatives to Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center.

The following outgoing council members were recognized and thanked for their service: Grant Burwash, Steven Grant, Rachel Reim-Ledbetter, and Astrid Aamot. Pastor Charis presented Grant with a card and a gift certificate in special appreciation for his three years as council president--during a pandemic and the process of calling a new pastor.

Visioning Process

Following the business meeting there was discussion of the proposed mission statement and time spent brainstorming BLC's top values as a congregation. The following mission statement was adopted:

Burlington Lutheran Church

Being God's Love in our Communities

Multiple congregational values were shared and then ranked by the members present. The council will consider this information at an upcoming meeting and get back to the congregation with a list of the top, highest held values.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm

Janice Burwash

BLC Council Secretary

2023 TREASURER'S REPORT

Greetings Burlington Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the continued support and commitment you have for God's ministry in this place and our community. Because We Love we are not only able to grow and nourish our own members, but also those in our greater community.

Please take a moment to review the financial report for year end 2022. By reviewing this document you will get a great perspective of the progress being made during the year 2023.

You will see that in the year 2022 we had budgeted to transfer \$32,836.00 from our reserve funds. In reality slightly less, \$30,000.00, was used. Income may not have met the budgeted level, but with the wise stewardship of our council and staff expenses tracked at a lower than budgeted level as well.

You also have the YTD 2023 financial report printed for your review. Optimistic projection indicate that we are on track to transfer a smaller sum from reserves than the 2023 approved budget indicated. YTD income is tracking very well, and for that we are grateful. Thank you people of Burlington Lutheran. Once again this year wise stewardship of our income and expenses are occurring.

Also of note, with gratitude to Linda Rudy and the Budget and Finance team the transfer of our book keeping service took place between year end 2022 and beginning in 2023 Linda became our Financial Secretary. The book keeping system was migrated from an outside accounting firm system to an in house computer system. Thank you Linda for your perseverance and commitment to "Get it Right" for Burlington Lutheran.

Most of all, thank you once again people of this worshipping community. You have opened your hearts and allowed God to work through you. You show what is possible when when look toward Abundance and away from fear of scarcity

Respectfully submitted
 Millie Fosberg
 2023 Congregational Treasurer

Thanks everyone

Burlington Lutheran Church 2022 Budget Summary

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
General	\$7,158	\$4,658	\$4,913	\$6,134	\$5,024	\$5,287	\$7,145	\$6,511	\$5,379	\$5,089	\$5,901	\$10,567	\$73,766
Vanco (Elect. App)	\$4,250	\$4,335	\$5,480	\$5,114	\$5,345	\$5,101	\$4,906	\$5,192	\$5,087	\$7,091	\$5,198	\$7,669	\$64,768
Lump sum	\$21,000	\$0	\$5,285			\$4,000	\$625	\$8,000	\$5,000				\$43,910
Total	\$32,408	\$8,993	\$15,678	\$11,248	\$10,369	\$14,388	\$12,676	\$19,703	\$15,466	\$12,180	\$11,099	\$18,236	\$182,444
YTD Monthly Income													
Average (1)	\$13,158	\$11,951	\$12,455	\$12,701	\$12,673	\$12,990	\$13,269	\$14,062	\$14,439	\$14,579	\$14,595	\$15,204	
Income Budget (2)	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$16,667	
YTD Net	-\$3,509	-\$9,432	-\$12,635	-\$15,863	-\$19,970	-\$22,058	-\$23,786	-\$20,840	-\$20,049	-\$20,876	-\$22,785	-\$17,556	
Spending Budget (3)													
Actual Expenses	\$13,330	\$22,861	\$18,257	\$19,096	\$14,867	\$16,421	\$17,209	\$15,731	\$16,929	\$16,394	\$16,921	\$22,889	\$210,905
Budget - Actual	\$6,010	-\$3,521	\$1,083	\$244	\$4,473	\$2,919	\$2,131	\$3,609	\$2,411	\$2,946	\$2,419	-\$3,549	
YTD Net (4)	\$6,010	\$2,489	\$3,572	\$3,816	\$8,289	\$11,208	\$13,339	\$16,948	\$19,359	\$22,305	\$24,724	\$21,175	
YTD Expense v.													
Average giving (5)	-\$172	-\$12,290	-\$17,083	-\$22,740	-\$25,048	-\$26,890	-\$29,160	-\$25,279	-\$24,750	-\$25,304	-\$27,467	-\$28,461	

Footnotes:

- (1) Rolling average of monthly giving with lump sums averaged over 12 months
- (2) Income budget excluding reserve fund transfers
- (3) Spending budget includes \$32,836 of reserve fund transfer
- (4) YTD to date budget v. actuals for expenses - a positive indicates spending is less than budget
- (5) =(YTD Ave Inc. - YTD Exp.) Negative indicates amount needed from reserve funds to balance budget

Burlington Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2022 & 2021

	<u>Dec 31, 22</u>	<u>Dec 31, 21</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1010 · Bank of America - Checking	26,711.63	115,584.90
1035 · Wa Fed MM 6943	30,196.78	30,000.00
1070 · Wa Fed CD 1349	65,516.72	65,000.00
1080 · Einer Ruby Knutzen Scholarship	27,953.85	
1085 · Wa Fed 2361	77,080.64	
Total Checking/Savings	<u>227,459.62</u>	<u>210,584.90</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>227,459.62</u>	<u>210,584.90</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>227,459.62</u>	<u>210,584.90</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS TRUST ACCOUNT	<u>199,505.77</u>	<u>210,584.90</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
2100 · Payroll Liabilities		
2100.01 · FICA/Withholding	1,187.78	
2100.02 · L&I	352.37	
2100.03 · FMLA	158.77	
Total 2100 · Payroll Liabilities	<u>1,698.92</u>	<u>260.86</u>
2200 · Restricted Non-Operating Funds		
2200.03 · BLC Women	1,851.30	1,270.33
2200.08 · Capital Campaign-Roof		-797.98
2200.15 · Christmas Baskets	2,413.59	408.59
2200.45 · In & Out	796.68	-1,793.63
2200.50 · Scholarships for Youth Camp	373.48	373.48
2200.52 · Memorial Fund	7,126.69	5,351.69
2200.56 · Missions	1,220.00	370.00
2200.58 · Worship, Music & LiveStream	295.44	
2200.62 · Family Promise/Reach Out	1,169.29	2,402.92

2200.90 · Youth	1,233.40	1,392.08
2200.96 · OPOP	545.96	445.96
2200.97 · Underground Ministry Grant	9,600.00	
Total 2200 · Restricted Non-Operating Funds	<u>26,625.83</u>	<u>9,684.30</u>
2200.86 · Einer Knutzen Scholarship Fund	27,953.85	
2300 · Non-Restricted Funds		
2200.09 · Organist Training - D Reichert		20.00
2200.10 · Organ fund		233.16
2200.51 · M Jensen/R.Rebertson Fund		16,666.07
2200.69 · Contract Revenue		14,276.74
2200.71 · Nursery Program		290.24
2300.07 · Building Fund	23,996.87	31,601.45
2300.51 · Emergency Fund	60,000.00	115,054.04
2300.68 · Operating Savings	60,526.47	
Total 2300 · Non-Restricted Funds	<u>144,523.34</u>	<u>178,141.70</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>200,801.94</u>	<u>187,826.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>200,801.94</u>	<u>187,826.00</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>200,801.94</u>	<u>187,826.00</u>
Equity		
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	21,375.41	21,375.41
3900 · Retained Earnings	1,383.49	-4,492.52
Net Income	3,898.78	5,876.01
Total Equity	<u>26,657.68</u>	<u>22,758.90</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>227,459.62</u></u>	<u><u>210,584.90</u></u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY LESS TRUST AMOUNT	<u><u>199,505.77</u></u>	<u><u>210,584.90</u></u>

For Management Purposes Only

2024 BUDGET FOR APPROVAL

Sept. 19, 2023

	Estimated Year End Actuals 2023	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
REVENUE			
4000.00 Offering			
4000.02 General Offering	\$ 127,601	\$ 121,586	\$ 141,000
4000.04 Vanco Giving	\$ 69,126	\$ 65,341	\$ 72,000
4000.06 Venmo Giving	\$ 2,945		\$ 3,100
Total Offering	\$ 199,672	\$ 186,927	\$ 216,100
4020.00 Building Use/Rent	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500
4040.00 Other Income	\$ 108	\$ 500	\$ 200
4040.00 From Operating Savings	\$ 14,119	\$ 27,698	\$ 11,815
4090.00 Interest Income	\$ 1,196	\$ 500	\$ 1,500
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 216,495	\$ 216,825	\$ 231,115
EXPENDITURES			
5000.00 BENEVOLENCES			
5010.02 ELCA Synod Support	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000
Total Benevolences	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000
6000.00 MINISTRY & WORSHIP			
6005.00 Confirmation			\$ -
6010.00 Education	\$ 283	\$ 1,000	\$ 625
6015.00 Evangelism	\$ 737	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
6020.00 Fellowship & Hospitality	\$ 1,156	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
6025.00 Meetings & Conventions	\$ 218	\$ 500	\$ 500
6030.00 Music & Supplies	\$ 448	\$ 200	\$ 500
6035.00 Worship Supplies	\$ 2,684	\$ 3,800	\$ 3,000
6040.00 2022 Expenses	\$ 568		
6042.00 Youth Programs			\$ 2,000
Total Ministry & Worship	\$ 6,095	\$ 7,500	\$ 8,625
6500.00 OUR CHURCH HOME			
6510.00 Administration			
6510.02 Office Supplies	\$ 1,034	\$ 400	\$ 1,500
6510.04 Copy Machine & Lease	\$ 2,570	\$ 2,850	\$ 2,800
6510.06 Postage	\$ 297	\$ 250	\$ 300
6510.08 Taxes & Registrations	\$ 1,650	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
6510.10 Fees			
6510.12 Fees: Service (Bank/Vanco/Venmo)	\$ 265		\$ 450
6510.15 Fees: Transaction (Vanco/Venmo)	\$ 574		\$ 1,150
Total Fees	\$ 840	\$ 5,500	\$ 1,600
6510.20 Accounting/Legal Services	\$ 2,074	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Quickbooks Software&Payroll	\$ 796		\$ 2,500
Total Administration	\$ 9,261	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,700

	Estimated Year End Actuals 2023	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
6520.00 BUILDING			
6520.02 Building Supplies	\$ 277	\$ 800	\$ 800
6520.04 Building Maintenance	\$ 698	\$ 2,500	\$ 4,200
6520.05 Capital Improvements			\$ 3,000
6520.06 Building Inspections / Licenses	\$ 1,212		\$ 2,000
6520.08 Custodial 2022	\$ 748		\$ -
6520.08 Custodial Service 2023	\$ 8,828	\$ 8,976	\$ 8,976
Total Building	\$ 11,763	\$ 12,276	\$ 18,976
6522.00 Insurance: Building / Liability	\$ 6,744	\$ 6,100	\$ 7,590
6524.00 UTILITIES			
6524.02 Electricity	\$ 2,190	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,400
6524.04 Heat	\$ 3,611	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,025
6524.06 Sewer	\$ 1,321	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,400
6524.08 Water	\$ 601	\$ 620	\$ 650
6524.10 Garbage	\$ 1,339	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300
6524.12 Telephone (Verizon)	\$ 2,445	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,400
6524.14 Internet (Comcast)	\$ 2,073	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,100
Total Utilites	\$ 13,579	\$ 13,020	\$ 15,275
6526.00 Technology	\$ 980	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500
6528.00 Organ/Piano Maintenance		\$ 800	\$ 800
6540.00 PASTOR EXPENSES			
6540.02 Pastor Cell Phone	\$ 840	\$ 720	\$ 720
6540.04 Pastor Continuing Education	\$ 2,670	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
6540.06 Pastor Hospitality	\$ 387	\$ 600	\$ 600
6540.08 Pastor Official Meetings/Confer	\$ 365	\$ 500	\$ 500
6540.10 Pastor Resource Material	\$ 86	\$ 500	\$ 500
6540.12 Pastor Mileage/Travel Reimbur	\$ 531	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Total Pastor Expenses	\$ 4,879	\$ 4,820	\$ 4,820
7000.00 Payroll Expenses			
7010.00 Social Security / Medicare			\$ -
7020.00 Payroll Expenses - FMLA	\$ 712	\$ 430	
Dept of Labor & Industries	\$ 280	\$ 789	\$ -
7030.00 Payroll Expenses Other	\$ 357		\$ -
Total Payroll Expenses	\$ 1,349	\$ 1,219	\$ -
7200.00 Guest Speaker/Pastor	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,650
Total Our Church Home	\$ 49,906	\$ 52,235	\$ 61,311
PERSONNEL	\$ -		
8005.00 Pastor			
8005.05 Pastor Housing Allowance	\$ 11,200		\$ 16,800
8005.10 Pastor Salary	\$ 70,920	\$ 81,173	\$ 72,500
8005.15 Pastor FICA	\$ 6,206	\$ 6,210	\$ 6,831
Pastor FMLA			\$ 892
8005.20 Pastor L&I	\$ 274		\$ 447
Pastor Payroll	\$ 88,600	\$ 87,383	\$ 97,470

	Estimated Year End Actuals 2023	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
8005.26 Pastor Pension	\$ 33,056		\$ 14,000
8005.27 Less Employee Contribution	\$ (10,040)		
8005.25 Total Pastor Pension	\$ 23,016	\$ 24,000	\$ 14,000
Total Pastor	\$ 111,616	\$ 111,383	\$ 111,470
8030.00 Office Administration			
8030.10 OA Salary	\$ 13,687	\$ 17,355	\$ 15,600
8030.15 OA FICA & Medicare	\$ 957	\$ 1,328	\$ 1,193
OA FMLA			\$ 156
8030.20 OA L&I	\$ 85		\$ 168
Total Office Administration	\$ 14,729	\$ 18,683	\$ 17,117
8040.00 Finance Administration			
8040.10 FA Salary	\$ 2,200		\$ 3,600
8040.15 FA FICA & Medicare	\$ 168		\$ 275
FA FMLA			\$ 36
8040.20 FA L&I	\$ 24		\$ 39
Total Finance Administration	\$ 2,392	\$ -	\$ 3,950
8050.00 Worship & Music Leader			
8050.10 WML Salary	\$ 23,548	\$ 21,450	\$ 15,013
8050.15 WML FICA & Medicare	\$ 1,642	\$ 1,641	\$ 1,148
WM FMLA	\$ -		\$ 150
8050.20 WML L&I	\$ 110		\$ 112
Total Worship & Music Leader	\$ 25,300	\$ 23,091	\$ 16,423
8060.00 Organist	\$ -		
8060.05 O Salary	\$ 1,093	\$ 1,332	\$ 1,400
8060.10 O FICA & Medicare	\$ 84	\$ 101	\$ 107
O FMLA	\$ -		\$ 14
8060.20 O L&I	\$ 3		\$ 5
Total Organist	\$ 1,179	\$ 1,433	\$ 1,526
8070.00 Nursery Attendant			
7070.05 NA Salary	\$ 1,364		\$ 3,413
8070.10 NA FICA & Medicar	\$ 98		\$ 261
NA FMLA	\$ -		\$ 34
8070.20 NA L&I	\$ 10		\$ 34
Total Nursery Attendant	\$ 1,472	\$ -	\$ 3,742
8080.00 Youth Coordinator			
8080.05 YC Salary	\$ 1,200		\$ 3,600
8070.10 YC FICA & Medicare	\$ 92		\$ 275
YC FMLA	\$ -		\$ 36
8070.20 YC L&I	\$ 13		\$ 39
Total Youth Coordinator	\$ 1,305	\$ -	\$ 3,950
Total Personnel	\$ 157,994	\$ 154,590	\$ 158,179
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 216,495	\$ 216,825	\$ 231,115

2023 CONGREGATION STATISTICAL REPORT

Active members: 122

Baptized:

Gaudalupe Wally Cienfuegos Jr 6/25/2023
Andrea Owen 8/8/2023

New Members who joined:

Chris Hoke 1/15/2023
Wilbur Draffs 4/8/2023
Brian Finley 5/14/2023
Lulu Miller 5/14/2023
Ranae Riddle 7/2/2023
Andrea Owen 8/8/2023

New Members who transferred in:

Traci Drake 4/8/2023
Denise Hartley 4/8/2023
Marc Hander 4/8/2023
Jerilyn Hander 4/8/2023
Gabriel Hander 4/8/2023
Levi Hander 4/8/2023
Selah Hander 4/8/2023
Judi Rogers 4/8/2023
Bill Rogers 4/8/2023
Beth Strack 4/8/2023
Karen Desko 4/8/2023
Carol Whitfield 5/14/2023

Transferred out:

Left by Death (members)

Vern Sorenson 04/11/2023
Doris Heyntsen 09/06/2023
Ethyl Adams 08/24/2023

Funerals/memorials (members):

Vern Sorenson 5/28/2023
Doris Heynsten 06/16/2023

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Beloveds in Christ,

“Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’” (John 12:20-21)

When I was in college, I sold books door to door in Alabama. One home that I approached was a trailer with no door - it had burned at some point and there was a smell of decay in the air. We were taught in Sales School that you knocked on every door. Since there wasn't a door, I knocked on the wall. A young mother with two small naked children came. I told her I was selling books. Her face lit up. She said, “Do you have any about Jesus?” And when I said yes, she came back with a jar full of coins that she emptied into my hands. “I want Jesus for my kids,” she said.

I have thought about this young mother and her children for decades now. I still wrestle with my decision to take her coins rather than just giving her the book. I wonder how the children grew up. I hope that they soon moved out of that shack and into a place with at least a door.

But her question has stayed with me the most, “Do you have any about Jesus?” It is so much like the plea from the gospel of John quoted above, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

Are we not still asking this today? To see Jesus and to be seen by Jesus. To truly see and be seen in holy community.

In this time in history when there are so many things that are difficult – in our personal lives, in this nation, in this church – we are all longing for Jesus. The very world, in its beauty and in its brokenness, is longing for Jesus.

I encourage you, as you gather for your annual meeting – and as you discuss budgets and maintenance and worship attendance and the building and salaries and all of the things needed to keep the organization of church going – to also, perhaps mostly, think about the question this young woman was so eagerly asking, “Do you have any about Jesus?” The longing that goes back to some Greeks who ran into Philip one day 2000 years ago. “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

I pray that as you gather, much of the conversation is about how Jesus sees you and how, through Jesus, you see each other and the world. What are some ways that this is made tangible in your community?

Where are we falling short? Where is Jesus being shown to us outside of the church buildings and even outside of Christian community? Above all things, I pray that as you gather, you experience the love and grace of Jesus. While we don't have the answer for all things that are happening or are coming in this next year, we do know this, Jesus is with us. The Spirit is journeying with us. We are held in God's hands. And when I see you, I see Jesus.

Thank you for the honor of being your Bishop. I am so thankful for you.
God's abundant blessings on your annual meeting and throughout 2023.
+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: SEPT, 2022 - SEPT, 2023

This will be my second Annual Meeting at BLC, and I can say unequivocally that I think this church is spectacular. This congregation is able to pivot to try new things, to embrace new people, to reach out to neighbors, and to tend to the needs of one another, and to dream new dreams. Wow. Y'all are truly amazing, and I remain in awe that I get to be the pastor here.

We've tried some new things in the past year. **The Fall Speaker Series**, Faithfully Queer & Allied, brought in really interesting people both as speakers and as attendees. We even had enough donations to host Jennifer Knapp at Lincoln Theater! This year our series will be in November and focus on the experience of transgender persons.

Also a new focus for BLC is **connecting with our Indigenous neighbors**. We continue to have opportunities to learn from Elders Kay Knott (skʷalχaχalićəʔ), Jay Bowen (clakadəb), and Lora Pennington (tsi sɔ́walʔalq́wal). They are protective and supportive of BLC, and are helping to open our eyes to the history of this region and the peoples who preceded this church being on this particular land. It is my hope that this church will continue to be a leader in connecting with and advocating for our Upper Skagit relatives. **Pentecost** saw us join with both our Elder friends and El Camino de Emaus, for a never-done-before worship service in English, Spanish, and Lushootseed, and well as seven additional languages during the prayers of the people. We've set a high bar for the future!

Church 2.0 has been an enjoyable experiment. These after-church activities like contemplative prayer and engaging in art have allowed us to learn together and dream up fun things to do together as a learning congregation. I'm looking forward to seeing how this venture might grow and morph.

During **Lent** we deviated from the lectionary and explored the Sermon on the Mount, which was well received. We also had neighborhood meals together, which turned out to be an enjoyable way to connect with fellow BLC'ers. And then during the renewed Easter Vigil we had twelve people join the church!!

This summer our church was in the news for hosting the **epic celebration of my wedding to Deborah**. The front page article in the Skagit Herald highlighted the welcoming nature of this congregation, and the joy that resides here. And that party was so darn fun! I'm still so grateful for July 9th, which I'll relive for the rest of my days.

It's been a long time since we had a **Youth Group** at Burlington Lutheran, but with the leadership of Grant Burwash as our new Children & Youth Coordinator, it has started up with seven 6th graders, and one 7th grader! I'm so excited to see all that these youth can and will contribute to the life of this congregation. All of the children and youth of BLC are a gift, and it's fabulous that all in this church realize that they are the future of our collective faith.

Almost every Sunday we have at least one new person attending worship services. Our **attendance has risen slowly but steadily this past year**, and I think we all have great hope that BLC can be a spiritual home to more and more Skagit folks. The goal, of course, isn't just to become bigger, but to increasingly embody our mission of Being God's Love in our Communities. To that end, our "**Because We Love...**" campaign continues to highlight some of the good that we're doing in this world - through Family Promise, the Tri Parish Food Bank,

Underground Ministries, quilting, Josephine Caring Community, the Christmas food basket drive, tabling at Pride and Berry Dairy Days, our Social Justice Team, God's Work Our Hands, supporting Girl Scouts, Sewing Community, and others. Outreach and service to our community is one aspect of being church, and it's a vital one!

The BLC Council has been doing some heavy lifting this year as well. I'm grateful for their leadership in activating our Personnel Committee, working with the County to become an emergency severe weather shelter, installing security cameras, clarifying our committees and member rolls, attending to building needs, and working on a Council handbook. This amazing team has put in a lot of hours this year!!

While the **littlest of our members**, Wallito, was baptized this year, we have also **lost some of our long-term members**. For decades Ethel Adams and Doris Heyntsen contributed to the life and functioning of BLC, and Vern Sorenson also added years of service and participation. We mourn their loss, even as they point us toward the resurrection and the redemption of all things.

BLC is here for the small and for the large. We are here to grow in our faith, offer the love of God to others, and to have some lovely friendships and support in the process. We've been doing that, and by the grace of God we will continue - in ways that are unique to us as a congregation. **I'm so proud of this church**, and so excited for what and who we have been this past year, and what and who we shall be moving forward.

In grace and peace,
Pr Charis Weathers

2023 BLC COUNCIL REPORT

2023 has been a very productive and busy year for the council. We started the year off with a retreat where we got to know each other a little better through a strength finder survey and we discussed this year's goals. In January we began discussion about becoming a cold weather shelter and formed several groups dedicated to the infrastructure of the church, with emphasis on the personnel committee and the need for policies and an employee handbook. In February the council started working on the visioning process and we developed a stewardship group. We discussed how to best use funds received from the closing of another congregation, and placed delegates for the ER Knudsen scholarship, and our infrastructure groups started their work. In March we were busy within our groups and focused on the visioning process, we worked on the cold weather shelter, and started cleaning up membership roster. We investigated some technical upgrade for the sanctuary in April and had a change in vice presidents due to illness. John White graciously stepped up to fill a very important roll. In May was a very busy month, we started to investigate security cameras for the building, we applied for a grace grant to make our building more accessible to the Upper Skagit tribe and we approved replacement of some interior lighting. June was pride month and the council was certainly present and busy with local events throughout the county. We continued to investigate the best use of donated funds with focus on security cameras. We received the grace grant thanks to the hard work of Charis and set up a group to investigate the upgrade to the building entrance. We also welcomed new council member Mary Nolte to fill a vacant at large council position and talked about the upcoming wedding of Charis and Debora. The council took a mid-summer break in July to enjoy a beautiful wedding and have some

relaxation. We held a special meeting after some security concerns to discuss policies and procedures and investigated de-escalation training. We followed up by implementing some new safety policies for the church, we also purchased security cameras and set up the installation of the system. By August we had the security cameras installed and functioning, we had quotes for the new keypad entry door system and the personnel committee was buy working on the employee handbook and policies. The council was also busy with a council manual and started working on the annual congregational meeting and gathering reports for all our groups. September has us focused on our annual budget and the annual meeting, we selected a company to install the keypad entrance and approved funding as well we have approved much needed maintenance and inspections of our handicap lift. In addition, we have been prospecting for new council members and have (3) new council members lined up for next year's council thus filling our of our vacated positions. We will continue to focus on the personnel committee, stewardship campaigns and the visioning process, were also keen to follow up on security procedures and trainings as well as doing some outreach with focus on gender education and advocacy.

In closing I hope that ya'll can appreciate the amazing amount of work this year's council has and continues to provide to Burlington Lutheran Church. The amount of experience, energy, and dedication each council member has provided is truly inspiring. It's been challenging for me to keep up with this very active council while working full time and being present for my family. It's been an absolute honor to serve as your council president and a real testament to BLC reconciling ministry to allow a transgender person to serve in the highest council position. Thank you! Now after 5 consecutive years on council it's time to retire, enjoy an upcoming BEHS graduation, dust off the hydroplane and get back to racing!

Rochelle Hill – 2023 Burlington Lutheran Church Council President

COMMITTEE AND GROUP REPORTS

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Budget and Finance Committee Report 2022-2023

The Budget and Finance (B & F) Committee oversees all the financial affairs of the Congregation. The financials are closely monitored by reviewing and analyzing any significant variances from the budget. A report is given to Council each month. There is a continued effort to have records that are complete, accurate and easy to understand.

Thank you to everyone who continues to give their volunteer time, talents and financial donations to support the life and ministry of Burlington Lutheran Church. Your giving will continue to help BLC live into our mission.

1. Our committee meets several times a year.
2. The BLC financials are reviewed.
3. Income and expenses are discussed, with any concerns or recommendations going to the BLC Council.
4. Our unrestricted funds are reviewed and monitored.
5. Budget planning for the upcoming year is done and completed in time for the annual meeting which is held in September of each year.

Since our last report, Shirley Osborn and Rhonda Brown have stepped down. They have been a part of our committee for years (and years). The sharing of their expertise and love for Burlington Lutheran Church has been invaluable during good times and challenging times. We have been blessed to know and work with them. Thank you Shirley and Rhonda! We will miss you.

Rachel Reim-Ledbetter severed during the pandemic. We thank Rachel for her service.

Lisa Svaren joined the committee in August of 2023. We look forward to working together. Welcome Lisa!

If you are interested in joining in the work of your B & F Committee, you may contact any committee member. Your input and skills are welcome and needed.

In His Name,

Committee:

Cindy Cohen, Chair

John White

Millie Fosberg, BLC Treasurer

Lisa Svaren

Linda Rudy, Financial Secretary

WAYS TO GIVE

VENMO

You can now Venmo the church on your phone **@burlingtonlutheran** (*NOTE THE ABSENCE OF THE DASH; this is our Venmo "business" profile*)

VANCO MOBILE FAITH ENGAGEMENT PHONE APP

Download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App Church for free from the App Store or Google Play!

GIVING BY TEXT

Simply send a text message to 360-727-0807 with the amount you would like to contribute (example: 25). Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. *For future giving, send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! You can even text "repeat" to make it a recurring donation.*

AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) provides the option for you to have your offering automatically deducted from your checking or savings account and deposited directly to Burlington Lutheran's account. For more information about this option, or to request a form to begin this option, contact the church office. 360-755-0729

BILL PAY

Bill Pay is another option available for anyone whose banking institution offers online bill payment options. Just follow the directions for your bank or credit union to create Burlington Lutheran Church as a Payee at 134 East Victoria Avenue, Burlington, WA 98233, and choose to make a regular weekly or monthly payment.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Boxes of offering envelopes are also available by request.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT

The main function of Building and Grounds consists of routine maintenance to the Church. This consists of changing furnace filters on a regular basis, keeping up the exterior grounds and generally doing what needs to be done to keep the church in proper order. Jason Slotemaker has kept up the lawn and flower beds admirably this past year. He also swings by the church on a regular basis to pick up the trash left behind by the homeless who sometimes sleep on our property and others. This is a big volunteer job and Jason deserves our thanks.

In addition to regular maintenance, B & G has installed handrails in some of the stairwells that had never had them and raised other handrails in other stairwells to meet code as our handrails were about 6 inches below minimum code. This is an ongoing process with a goal to have them all at proper height by year end. The hall lights on the ground level of the education wing were replaced with modern LED fixtures. The old ones sported damaged plastic globes, were antiquated and inefficient with each fixture having no less than three ballasts humming loudly.

B & G goals for the remainder of 2023 include trimming exterior shrubbery to enhance security, upgrading exterior lighting with sensors to turn them on at night (another security measure), and finishing up with the handrails. Anyone with suggestions for B & G projects should feel free to contact me.

David Svaren

BURLINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (BLCW)

We were happy to return face to face in the fall of 2022 for Women's Bible Study. We meet monthly September-May on the third Tuesday of each month. Bible studies are from The Gather Magazine, ELCA Magazine, and led by different women to host. Our offerings are given to local charities at the end of each year. It is here that we help to organize some pot lucks, memorial receptions, and over events.

Fran Hansen - President
Linda Rudy - Treasurer
Becky Neff - Sunshine

In his Grace,
Becky NeFF

BLC WOMEN FINANCIAL REPORT

Year To Date
August 31, 2023

BLC WOMEN & DIANE VAUGHAN FUND (2300.02)			
Diane Vaughan	Beginning Balance	1/1/2023	\$ 795.04
Additions			\$ -
Additions			\$ -
Disbursement			\$ -
Disbursement			\$ -
D.Vaughan Ending Balance		8/31/2023	\$ 795.04
General Fund	Beginning Balance	1/1/2023	\$ 1,056.26
Additions	Collection		\$ 564.00
Disbursement	Friendship House		\$ (100.00)
Disbursement	Josephine Home		\$ (100.00)
Disbursement	Skagit Domestic Violence		\$ (100.00)
Disbursement	Lighthouse Mission		\$ (50.00)
Disbursement	Lutherwood		\$ (100.00)
Disbursement	Oasis Teen Shelter		\$ (100.00)
Disbursement	Family Promise		\$ (200.00)
Disbursement	Meals on Wheels		\$ (50.00)
Disbursement	Lutheran World Relief		\$ (200.00)
Disbursement			\$ -
Gen. Fund Ending Balance		8/31/2023	\$ 620.26
TOTAL BLC WOMEN & DIANE VAUGHAN FUND (2300.02)			\$ 1,415.30

DEACONS

There is a group of 12 ladies at Burlington Lutheran known as the Altar Guild. We are tasked with taking care of the sanctuary and fellowship hall. We clean the Altar area weekly and change the paraments and banners to reflect the Church season. Two times a year Easter and Advent we deep clean the Altar and Sanctuary areas. Each of us take one month in the year and are responsible for caring for the Altar. Our Altar Guild consists of the following; Cindy Cohen, Marie Stromberg-Wojcik, Lisa Svaren, Debbie Reim, Pam Dix, Linda Rudy, Fran Hansen, Rita Forst, Judi Butterfield, Becky Neff, Debbie Schwarz, and Marsha Knutzen. We also prepare the font and altar for Baptisms when needed. It is a fulfilling job and one we're happy to do. Respectfully submitted, Fran Hansen

Fran Hansen
Deacon Scheduler

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise of Skagit County is a local affiliate of a national organization whose mission is “to come together as a community to support homeless families as they work to provide their children with loving homes.” BLC, one of the founding local congregations, has served as an overnight host for homeless families since 2015. BLC partners with Edison Lutheran Church. Shirley Osborne, assisted by Debbie Schwartz, coordinated BLC’s involvement for the first seven years and built BLC’s Family Promise ministry. Their dedication, hard work and vision has established BLC and Edison Lutheran an essential part of the Family Promise network. In March 2023, Shirley and Debbie asked Robert and Kathleen Hasselblad to step into the Coordinator roles and supported them through the leadership transition.

As a host congregation, BLC and Edison Lutheran split responsibilities for providing volunteers to provide meals and over-night hosts during the quarterly week-long stays of the homeless families in the program. The families stay at BLC in the four rooms dedicated for that purpose.

This year 22 adults and 32 children were served at BLC with 46 BLC volunteers cooking meals, engaging with the Family Promise guest, serving as over-night hosts, and making them feel welcomed and valued. This compassionate touch reduces the trauma homelessness inflicts upon families—especially the children—as Family Promise staff work to find each family permanent housing.

CHILDRENS CHURCH

During the year we have worked to re-establish children’s church during weekly Sunday worship. Our youth are separated into two spaces during this time. Children four years and younger go to the nursery space and children from ages 4-11 go to Godly Play.

The primary person supporting children in the nursery has been Ellie. She had not been scheduled to be at church every Sunday, which left us with some Sundays where we did not have a nursery attendant during worship. This is something that has been brought to the council, and they are working on a solution that will provide nursery care for every Sunday.

As the name implies, the curriculum that we use for children 4-11 is Godly Play. The primary people supporting this work have been Grant Burwash, Erin Rozema, and Nate Rozema. Additionally, Lisa Sveren has run art activities for students in place of Godly play during a handful of Sundays. We have also had special guest lead Origami activities during this time.

We have averaged anywhere between 3-8 students who go to Godly play on any given Sunday, and one goal is to work with families to increase youth attendance during worship during the upcoming year.

JOSEPHINE CARING COMMUNITY

Elected September, 2023 to complete the term ending April 30, 2023

Current Delegate Term May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024

A non-profit social ministry organization of the ELCA, "Josephine is a Caregiving Community for all Generations". In addition to nursing home facilities, there are four other services located on site in Stanwood: 1. Saratoga (Transitional Rehab); 2. The Suites (Senior Living); 3. The Meadows (Memory Care Residence) and 4. Josie's Learning Center (Child Care and Preschool). Cascade Village at Smokey Point (Retirement Community) is expected to open mid 2025.

Delegates attend quarterly meetings as well as facilitate special project requests for volunteers/donations with our own congregations. Since November of 2022, Burlington Lutheran has participated in the **Christmas Gift Giving Project** and **Bird Seed Appeal. Hands of Hope**, a service program beginning Fall of 2023, "collaborat(ing) with community volunteers to equip and empower our residents and children to create and distribute goods that will benefit people and pets living in local shelters".

Please refer to the website for additional information, history, donation and volunteer opportunities.

www.josephineecc.com Facebook: @JosephineCaringCommunity
"One Heart. Many Hands"

Respectfully submitted,
David & Lisa Svaren and Heidi Yeoman

ONE PARISH ONE PRISONER

When Burlington Lutheran began it's "One Parish One Prisoner" journey four years ago, BLC was only the 4th church to pilot this new program with Underground Ministries. Now there are 51 parish teams across Washington State walking alongside men and women releasing from prison tombs back into new life and embrace in their communities.

The BLC core OPOP Team--Erin Rozema, Shirley Osbourne, Nate Yunge, Allison White and myself--began writing letters with Wally Cienfuegos a year before his release. Surprising friendships grew between Wally and each member. We discovered shared life experiences with mental health challenges, domestic violence, faith struggles, even addiction. Wally's big brother Tony joined the team. As we planned for Wally's release, found housing solutions, shared his story with the wider BLC community, raised money for all the societal costs and barriers facing those leaving prison, a sense of hope and new friendships grew.

Wally released three years ago, March 2020. Days before the world went into lockdown. Through quarantine, pandemic, masks and distancing, this team did everything I want OPOP teams to do for those returning from prison: found ways to navigates courts and social security

offices to set up health care and remove holds on his driver's licence. They haggled with insurance and doctors to get Wally into needed surgery for a broken hand never that never healed in prison. They learned to love each other, rely on each other. They faced the invisible barriers and overcame them together.

Within a year, Wally was living with a loved one, employed at a Skagit company full time, and thriving. Building a chicken coop with the Rozema boys on a weekend. Taking walks on weekends with team members. Staying with another team member's family when

Then--as happens with so many people carrying a lifetime of wounds and burdens no one should have to carry--Wally's life began to unravel. Conflict with a partner. Mental health care lapsed. Old street addictions to self-medicate. Lost job.

Normally men I work with disappear into the "underground" life at this point. Instead, this team built such relationships of trust and tenderness with Wally over the years, that Wally stayed in contact. This team at BLC now had a loved on "on the streets," and the realities of addiction, homelessness, unmedicated mental health break our hearts when it's not a stranger on the corner, not a client, but a beloved friend.

This team stuck together through the sadness, the powerlessness, the loss of control we have to face in this journey. We prayed. We hoped and held our hearts open with text messages and visits to his house.

As Father Greg Boyle from Homeboy Industries says, "Ours is a God who waits. Who are we not to?"

In the meantime, Wally's girlfriend Rosie started coming to church at BLC. Their newborn Wallito has brought new light and curly-haired beauty to our church family, who was baptized this summer! Rosie's daughters Esther and Abby--and Abby's reptilian buddy Butterscotch--have become regular community members with us.

This is how relationships, and slow resurrection stories, work. We weave back together, tissue of a ruptured community. We hold each other.

Wally came to our Family Camp at Tall Timber last month! And he is not quite ready to take some terrifying steps toward recovery and healing--yet.

One Parish One Prisoner is formally a 2-year program. But its goal is to be a launch pad: so that communities of Christ can continue being in long term relationships of trust, healing and mutual growth with our most vulnerable community members.

Please join us in praying for Wally, in surrounding the core OPOP Team with support, and--as the last words of the Nicene Creed teach us--"look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."

PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee (PC) is developing personnel policies for BLC. To date the Council has approved a Health Benefit Policy. After completing a draft of personnel policies, the PC will begin to draft job descriptions for its staff. Some work was also started to complete a review of the pastor for her time here at BLC. This will also be restarted after the personnel policies are completed. Last, the PC, in cooperation with the pastor, submitted a recommendation to the council to authorize and fund a youth group coordinator. This position was approved by the Council and was filled by Grant Burwash starting in September 2023.

CHRISTMAS BASKET PROJECT

In December 2022 BLC once again participated in the Christmas Basket Project through the Skagit Valley Herald Christmas Fund. Members of the congregation adopted 20 families, which included 40+ children. Sponsors called their adopted families to find out their special needs, and each child received gifts (a book, a toy, and clothing) selected just for them. Each family also received a Fred Meyer gift card to use for fixings for their holiday meal or other family needs. On delivery day members made personal connections with our families when they dropped off the boxes of gifts and other goodies. Thank you to everyone who participated in this project in some way: shopping, donating money to cover the gift cards, or delivering. You were truly Being God's Love in our Communities.

Janice Burwash

LEANING GENEROUSLY INTO BLC'S VISION STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

Building a Culture of Generosity was the theme of our Fall 2022 Stewardship appeal. This theme reminded us of the generosity that we have witnessed at BLC over the last several years and challenged us to grow into this generosity in even more profound ways. Generosity is all around us, but sometimes we must look for it. In the feeding of the 5,000 story in the Bible, significant generosity happened once the child shared (John 6:9). That is how it is here. Once we begin to share, we see that God has blessed us with plenty.

Fall 2022 Stewardship wrap-up:

- 34 BLC households made commitments to give in 2023.
- Those commitments projected an almost 5% increase in giving over the previous year.

Our Stewardship theme of generosity continued into 2023 with monthly messages from members of the congregation sharing ways that our community is blessed because BLC is here. Your BLC council hopes that these messages will inspire you all to continue to support the Mission of BLC to Be God's Love in our Communities.

Thank You to everyone who participated in our Stewardship appeal and Thank You to everyone who continues to give to support the Mission and Vision of Burlington Lutheran Church.

Janice Burwash

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Burlington Lutheran Church
Worship & Music
Annual Report, September 2023

2023 has been a good year for Worship and Music at BLC. While we continue to readjust to 'normal' worship inside the building after the disruption caused by COVID-19, Worship and Music remains a vital piece of the work and ministry at BLC under the leadership and direction of Sean Bendickson.

Sean corresponds weekly with worship team members and Pastor Charis to select music for worship services, taking care to maintain a good variety of contemporary and traditional style songs and hymns. Songs in worship are typically be led by guitar, piano, or organ, with Lynne Berg providing organ accompaniment on selected hymns on (approximately) one Sunday per month. A handful of rotating volunteers help to sing and play instruments alongside Sean. On the occasional Sunday when Sean is absent, other talented musicians have come forward to lead. This year we have also enjoyed the leadership of a slowly growing 'tech' team, who help in worship by running the projected slideshow, the livestream, and the audio soundboard.

BLC assembled a seasonal church choir for the Advent season this year. Volunteers of all levels of experience and ability were able to join in and made a joyful noise of Christmas and Advent carols. Due to the strong, positive response, there are plans to assemble a choir again during the upcoming church year.

A highlight of the church year is always the occasion when BLC is able to hold a joint worship service along with our sibling Spanish-speaking congregation, El Camino De Emaus. This year's Pentecost service was no exception, and the blended, multi-cultural, multi-lingual service was a celebration of the diversity we celebrate in our church, and the welcome we extend to all. This year included an ad-hoc drum ensemble, and worship songs in many languages.

Just this month, the worship team has resumed weekly Wednesday evening *Midweek Music Night* to rehearse and enjoy some small group time together. This was a vital part of the Worship & Music team's weekly schedule prior to COVID, and we're excited to see it return.

The Worship and Music of BLC continues to sustain the Spirit of the congregation as we slowly and steadily examine ways to be the Church in a post-COVID world. There is always room for additional musician and tech volunteers. If anyone has an interest in being a part of this ministry of BLC, please contact Sean.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Bendickson

EXHIBIT A – Written Notices

BURLINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

134 E Victoria Ave
Burlington, WA 98233 USA
+1 360.755.0729
burlingtonlutheran@gmail.com
burlingtonlutheran.com

Sept 12, 2023

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Dear

Lots has been happening at Burlington Lutheran this past year. From community dinners during Lent, to after-church gatherings (Church 2.0), to creative and robust Easter and Pentecost services, to hosting possibly the first-ever reception in Skagit for a queer pastor getting married (with a unicorn dance!). We are thrilled to designate Grant Burwash as our new, official Children & Youth Coordinator, and we look forward to re-starting Youth Group on Sept 17th. Advent will again be meaningful, with creative liturgical materials that breath new life and renewed purpose into this well-known story.

In short, in 2023 we have embraced the mission and values that our congregation determined in 2022, and we have a lot more to accomplish and plan for in 2024.

This year's annual meeting will be after worship on September 24, 2023, in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be voting on 2024 council members, budget, and any other business that requires congregational vote. The visioning process that started last fall will also continue as we reflect upon the past year and plan for how BLC can more fully live into our mission of *"Being God's Love in our Communities."*

Quorum is 10% of all voting members. If you're receiving this letter, you are a voting member! Please come to the annual meeting in order to participate in the life of this church, and to add your voice and presence in our future.

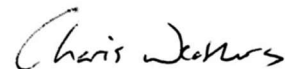
We very much look forward to gathering together!! All are welcome also to bring treats so we can snack our way through the meeting 😊

If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to Council President Rochelle Hill or Pastor Charis.

In peace and thanks,

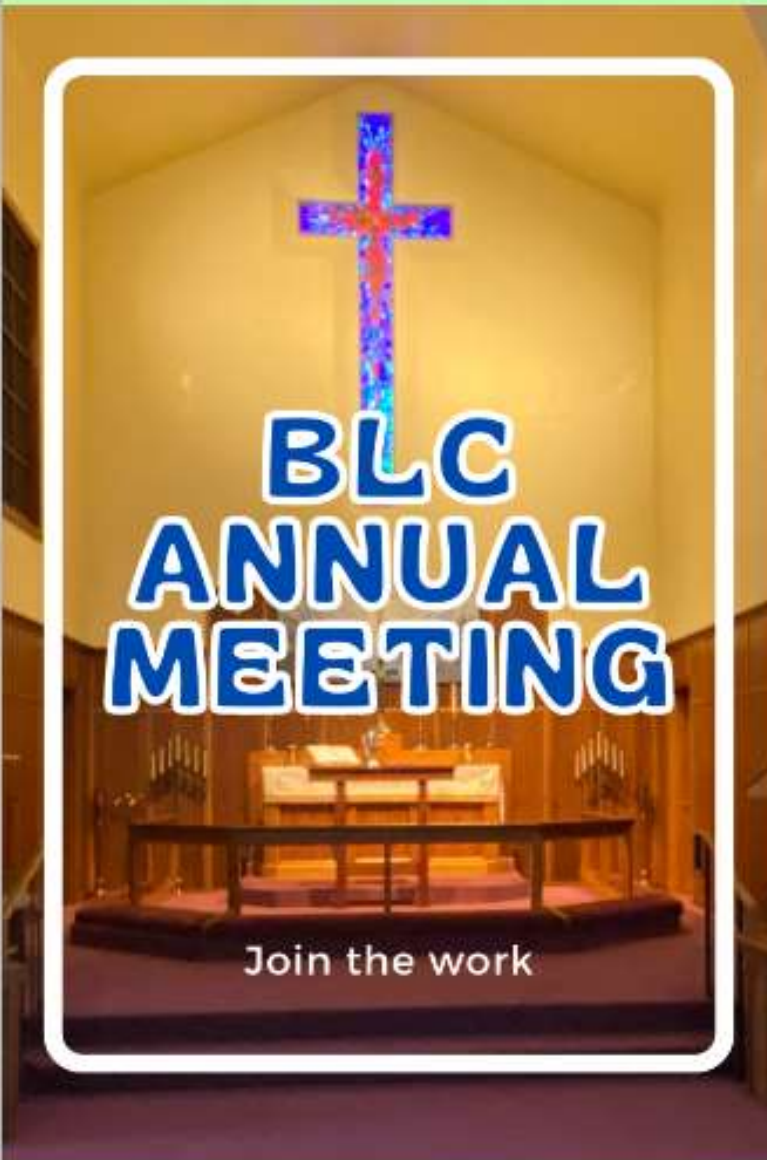


Rochelle Hill, Council President
RHILL225@msn.com
+1 360.941.7976



Pastor Charis Weathers
burlingtonlutheranpastor@gmail.com
+1 360.799.7578

Sept 03 E-news notice



ANNUAL MEETING

We will gather as a church after worship on Sunday, Sept 24th, for our Annual Meeting.

Anyone who attends BLC is invited, and anyone who is a member is able to vote. In addition to the work of voting on the budget and 2024 Council members, we will also continue to discuss the current and future vision of BLC. Come join the conversation and be a part of the crucial life of this church!

When the reports are compiled we will include a link to a pdf of the document. *(If you've been asked by Jacob to submit a report, please do - thanks!)*

EXHIBIT B – Addresses to which notices were sent 09/12/2023

Laurie Fox Miller
1097 Peterson Road
Burlington, WA 98233

Paul Reim
911 Jameson Street
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

John Ring
17043 Marlee Drive
Burlington, WA 98233

Avis Robinson
17080 Marlee Drive
Burlington, WA 98233

Norman Rudy
17211 Chinook Ct.
Mt. Vernon, WA 98274

Rhonda Tingley
20478 Eastgate Way
Burlington, WA 98233

Sharon Mainard
P.O. Box 23, 28881 Outlook Lane
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Kathy Child
509 Orchard Place, Apt. 1
Burlington, WA 98233

Christopher Curbow
18393 Andis Road
Burlington, WA 98233

Frank Draper
1211 E. Vernon Avenue
Burlington, WA 98233

Chuck Eager
20489 Eastgate Way
Burlington, WA 98233

Alison Heyntsen
12149 Pulver Road
Burlington, WA 98233

Doris Heyntsen
210 N Skagit St. #17A
Burlington, WA 98233

Jeremy King
117 E Spruce St
Mt. Vernon, WA 98274

Mikayla Kolbeck
25322 Meadow Way NE
Arlington, WA 98232

Bonnie Kyle
17241 Samish Heights Road
Bow, WA 98232

Spencer LaFollette
17711 Mclean Road
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

Cody Logan
20814 W Jordan Road
Burlington, WA 98233

Michael Neff
211 Kay Avenue
Burlington, WA 98233

Sharrie Nelson
11141 View Ridge Drive
Burlington, WA 98233

Steven Nelson
10849 Mary Lane
Burlington, WA 98233

Aubrey Small
16617 Ovenell Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Mike Stortroen
28679 W. Elk Run Drive
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Kathy Thomson
12363 Timberlane
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Linda Vague
1205 Curtis Street
Burlington, WA 98233

EXHIBIT C – Office Administrator’s Certificate of Mailing

Annual Meeting 2023

Invites sent out Sept. 12, 2023

*Submitted by,
Jacob Pitman
Office Administrator*

