

APRIL 2018

our redeemer's  
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

# *The*Visitor



day by day

A COMMUNITY IN THE MODEL OF CHRIST



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*COVER: Participants in a dramatic reading of the Processional and Passion Play on Palm Sunday.*

*INSIDE COVER: Pastor Gretchen took a picture of this graffiti on the sign when she came into work one morning. Don Boelter, Parish Administrator, had it cleaned up, but should we have kept it?*



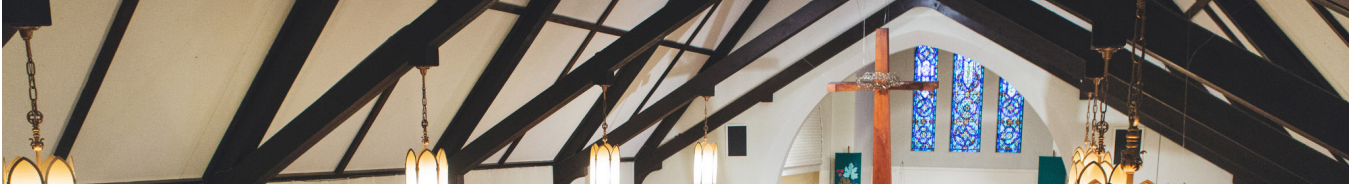
**Our community, our calling.**



- Katherine Hawks, Pastor
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director
- Don Boelter, Parish Administrator
- Nancy Oldenkamp, Welcome Minister
- Cara Kiggins, Social Justice Coordinator
- Jonath Ochs, Communications Coordinator
- Hannah Wetter, Nursery Care Provider

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## FROM THE PASTOR...



There is one employee of our church who never attends staff meetings. She hasn't attended seminary. She isn't Lutheran. But my oh my is she an evangelist in the truest sense of that word. And my oh my is she a person of prayer in the most powerful sense of that endeavor. And my oh my is she a servant of all, never hesitating to humble herself, and, metaphorically, wash another's feet as Jesus did. And my oh my is she full of joy and laughter, as enthusiastic about God's goodness as most people are about their favorite sports team. But most of all, she embodies God's love for everyone -- Road to Housing guests, pastors, the people who work for her.

She's tenacious -- in all those things, love, prayer, servanthood, joy. And she never tires of telling you what amazing thing God has done most recently. She brings incredible energy and seriousness to her work, too. Sometimes you find yourself chuckling at her insistence that you tell her any little thing that she could do to improve things for you. She works through the night at least twice a year. Some days she doesn't come to the church; other days, she's here multiple times. Whatever is needed. I've never heard her complain, although she doesn't pull any punches, either. If she sees something that concerns her or knows of a need someone has, she will most certainly tell you. She is unfailingly generous of heart, of spirit and with her resources -- though by many standards, her resources are quite modest. She reminds me of the "good wife" in Proverbs 31 who "laughs at the time to come", because she has such trust in God. And she never judges anyone. Ever.

A few years ago, her beloved life and work partner became quite ill and in seemingly less than a year, he died. As she said herself, she lost her joy. She openly grieved and acknowledged how awful it was to find her way through life without him. At

the very same time, she knew he was gloriously alive in God and God would get her through it. Both the pain and the promise were equally true.

Most of you wouldn't recognize her face. This wonderful person of strong hugs, persistent prayer, unembarrassed love and passionate faith in our risen Lord is Alfaretta MacQuarrie, known to those of us who love her as "Mrs. Mac.". She has been our custodian for something like 15 years -- moving tables and chairs into place, cleaning our bathrooms, arranging for carpet cleanings, emptying our trash, week in and week out, and coming multiple times a night on Christmas Eve and during Holy Week.

Custodian is the JOB we pay her for. But she knows, and all of us who know her know, her first priority is her calling: to love God with everything she's got, and love her neighbor as herself. Mrs. Mac will be retiring after Easter ("but if you haven't found a replacement, I can stay longer"). And my oh my will we miss her!

God will surely find new places and people for Mrs. Mac to offer all her gifts. Because, duh! She does that wherever she is! And I will carry with me the image of this wiry, strong, bright-eyed woman of God to remind me we are called to serve God each and every day, on the peaks and in the valleys of life, with people of every kind, whether we're sweeping the floor or delivering a sermon or creating software.



Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!! Let us serve Him with joy!!!

Pastor Kathy



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC



### Centering Prayer Resumes

*Thursdays, 6-6:30pm*

Give yourself the gift of centering, quiet, and time with God. Never tried it? Ask Pastor Kathy or Danielle Modeen what's involved. Or just come and soak it up. Thursdays, 6-6:30PM in the sanctuary.

### Thank You to our Lenten Devotional Authors!

Over the course of the forty days of Lent, over 90 people per day clicked open a devotion in their email. All written by our members, they were well written, personal, and prayerful. One member mentioned to me that she looked forward to "meeting" the author through their stories every day, and expressed how much she would miss the devotionals with her morning coffee. A huge thanks to all the people who participated, and to the organizers. We look forward to creating such a meaningful project again!



### Bless, Pray, Spread... Mayo!

*Sunday, April 29*

*Something for everyone*

On the fifth Sunday of April, our worship will center in **prayer for healing**. As always, we understand "healing" in a broad way -- as God's intention for all creation and all creatures to live in wholeness.

So alongside our prayers, we will be living out our prayers for wholeness by **blessing quilts and personal care kits** which will join quilts and kits from Lutheran churches all over the country, to be shipped wherever in the world they are needed most.

And in-between services on the same day, we'll roll up our sleeves to **make hundreds of yummy sandwiches** for people staying at Peter's Place shelter.

A satisfying and healing Sunday for people of all ages!



## Thank you!

*A great big thank you to all of our Holy Week & Lent Volunteers!*

Devotion Writers  
Readers  
Reader's Theater Participants  
Assisting Ministers  
Pastors  
Office Administrators  
Musicians in Choirs  
Ensembles  
Orchestras  
Hand Bell Players  
Worship Teams  
Altar Care Workers  
Communion Preparers  
Communion Servers  
Nursery Care Workers  
Ushers  
Bulletin Creators  
Folders  
Chefs and Kitchen Workers  
Youth Helpers  
Bonfire Lighters  
Worshippers

*You all come together to make Our Redeemer's a thriving community.  
We couldn't have done it without you!*





## Welcoming Others: “The God of Small Things”

*written by: Danielle Modeen, in  
collaboration with Amy Dahlgren  
and Paul Wallstrom*

### Who Invited You??

Since the Welcoming Committee was formed, we have thought a lot about how we welcome others here, in particular, what we might do that we don't do already.

We speak in terms of how we become a more “welcoming” congregation toward others: those more-less anonymous people out there who (a) might be actively seeking a new congregation, and just happened to show up at this one; or (b) engaged first with one of the pastors, before giving services a try (as Danielle did); or (c) just happened to drop in.

We tend to speak of “welcoming” (or perhaps “inviting”) as if it were a policy or formula we might devise that would maximize our “recruiting efforts”. Does that just mean our goal is to maximize the number of warm bodies in the pews?

When we think about this in this way, are we different from a group of advertising executives sitting around trying to increase market share for some particular brand of light beer (or for that matter, audience share for some religious TV program competing with others for the same time slot). Should we be? Might it be inevitable that we view potential members as “targeted market share” so long as they are strangers to us?

Well, we have been uncomfortable with these ways of looking at “welcoming”. We decided it's at least in part because the actual act of welcoming (and, far more important, the state of being and feeling welcomed, are nothing like that. It's always an emotionally complex interaction between two people. Somehow one or more of us extend ourselves (and not some kind of “sales pitch we don't even really believe to a person we don't know, and that other person somehow comes to feel that they're cared for, or belongs here, or even has found a home.

So, we started thinking about how we came to feel welcomed here. We thought that might be worth pondering because, as it happens, we can all be really difficult persons to welcome to much of anything. We think, if you can welcome me,



you can welcome pretty much anybody. Some combination of life experiences and Danielle realized it was a gradual process that started with her first meeting with Kathy. And yes, someone did come up to us after the first one or two services, and told us they glad we was there (or something of the sort).

But we have realized that what really mattered were one-on-one encounters with individual members, in which they shared something about Our Redeemers with us that was important to them, and that they thought might be important to me individually. For Danielle, those included:

1. Invited to choir;
2. Invited to join the Madonnas book group;
3. Talk with Julie Vannoy, in which she engaged me directly about CCT.

And somehow, through all those small one-on-one interactions (and others) she came to feel that she had a home here.

So then: What made you feel welcomed here? And, how does your experience give you guidance about

### **Inviting Instead of Welcoming?**

Some weeks ago, Kathy sent to us a series of papers by a pastor named Rob Moss, entitled “We Will No Longer be a Welcoming Church”. In his first paper, Moss pointed out that what we call “welcoming” is an essentially “passive” activity. We can have various procedures in place to make people who come in feel welcome while they’re here, but: “Welcoming is about us, not about them”, while inviting is not so much about welcoming people into our space as it is “going out into their place and meeting them there. “Welcoming involves hoping whoever happens to find you will join. “Inviting involves sharing God’s specific gifts – made real in your congregation – in the world.”

So, how to we do that? We admit to being a bit put off by this notion of “inviting” at first,

because the line between taking an opportunity to say something positive about your church and proselytizing can be vague. And as Moss says, interaction with our friends, co-workers, family members, neighbors, etc. takes us well outside our “comfort zone”.

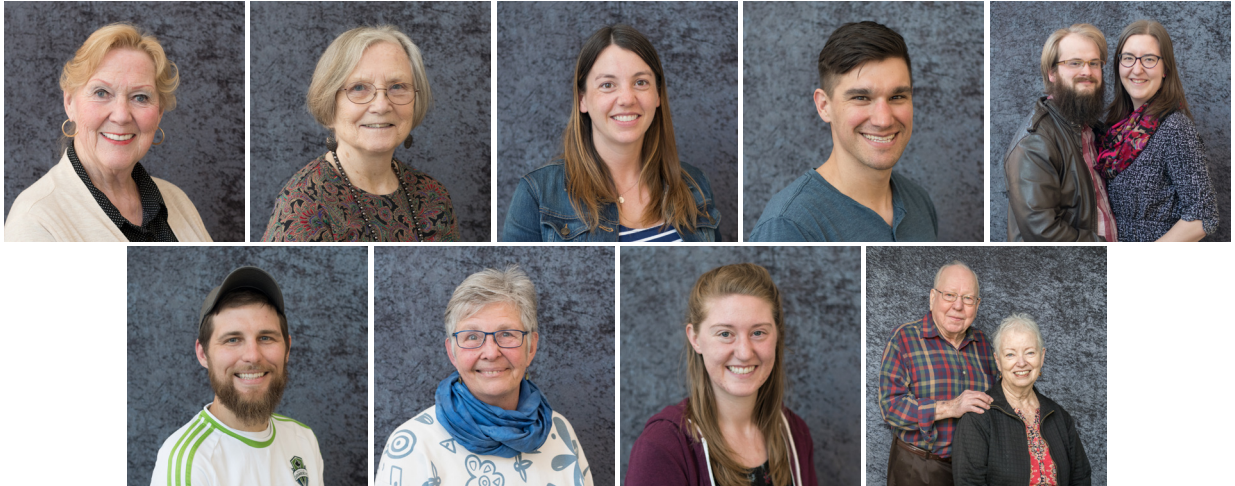
But in one of his articles, Moss talks about: “Not Welcoming in bite-size chunks”. Or put another way: Inviting in bite size chunks.

We have thought about these possible ways to share about Our Redeemers, and it occurred to us that the interaction these “formulas” facilitate (for example, “my church’s “centering prayer” or “social activism” is important to me because...” has the potential to be effective precisely because (if offered from the heart rather just because you have to come up with something) these are exactly the kind of interactions that made us feel welcome here.

Finally, we want to bring up Moss’s last article, “An Inviting Environment”, because this relates directly to the VAB project. He writes about making the church environment “more invitational”, but he also talks about making changes to the worship/fellowship space so that “all those people being invited [would] feel welcomed”. (The experience he describes, as an example, is that of his church attempting to create “the most invitational place for coffee” between services.)

It may be that, in discussing our physical space, it’s hard to draw a meaningful distinction between “welcoming” and “inviting”, and perhaps it doesn’t matter all that much. But Moss does say something important about the change in a church’s physical space: “[T]he change in environment also serves as a tangible reminder of our emphasis on invitation. The environment wasn’t changed just for you, it was also for those who aren’t here. Our environment is invitational for the neighborhood’s sake, so each of us could invite others more freely.”

# FAITH FORMATION



First row (from left to right): Barb Smith, Trudy Weaver, Leslie Wander, Nick Brown, Harold Laurence & Katlin Dickinson-Laurence. Second row: Drew Barowicz, Lynne McNeill, Sheila Carey, Doug Starup & Sally Parker-Henderson. Not pictured: Nicola LaGuardia, Linda Ahlvin, Victoria Gibson, Rhonda Pearson

## Welcome Newcomers

### *Journey Participants Affirm Their Faith at the Easter Vigil*

Sixteen adults new to Our Redeemer's are participating in The Journey this Lent. They are a wonderful and varied group, in age, church and faith background, gender and occupations/vocations. As always, the Spirit is drawing us into new relationships and new understandings as we learn, eat, pray, question and listen to scripture together.— as the Spirit always does — strengthen our relationship with God and our love for our neighbors.

Please keep the "Journeyers" in your prayers. And even better, be a part of the Easter Vigil, March 31 at 7pm, when those who wish to will affirm their faith and join Our Redeemer's.



## Theology on Tap

Thursday, April 27 ~ 7pm

Harold Laurence & Katlin Dickinson-Laurence's apartment

In the month following Easter at Theology on Tap we'll talk about **forgiveness**. We have received such a gift of grace and forgiveness from God. But for our part, the act of forgiveness can be one of the most difficult things to do. It's also one of the most powerful. How do we forgive when it seems so hard? Why should we forgive, especially in those seemingly impossible situations? This month we'll be hosted by Harold and Katlin. Their apartment is on the 2nd floor, there are stairs but no elevator. There is no code required. I'm told it'll be cozy so bring your willingness to sit close to your friends as we discuss this topic. Also bring a snack and/or beverage to share if you can!





## CAMPtastic Vacation Bible School

*July 16-20 ~ 9am-3:30pm*

Join us this summer for our CAMPTASTIC Vacation Bible School! Kids aged 4-5th grade are invited to come to camp right here at church! We will have songs, crafts, stories, snacks, and of course, games! Children will have a blast with their friends at Vacation Bible School (VBS). The cost is \$60, and they'll need to bring their own lunches.

VBS can't happen without your help! We need people before, during, and after VBS to help create the magic of camp. If you're interested in volunteering for VBS, we have the following needs:

- decorating
- snacks
- music
- first aid
- registration
- group leaders and assistants
- craft helpers
- story tellers

When we get closer to the time, we will have a list of supplies to be purchased or donated for VBS. Look for sign-ups, registration forms, and supply lists on the bulletin boards in the fellowship hall. Contact Pastor Gretchen with your questions, or to sign up!



## Youth Gathering

Thank you for supporting the youth who are attending the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in Houston. It's a big, expensive trip, and we are excited to have the privilege of going. Whether you've flocked your neighbor with flamingos, donated at the E-Cycling or Easter Breakfast, or are looking forward to "buying stock" in our students this May, we are so grateful for your prayers and support.



## Confirmation Camp

*July 29-Aug. 3*

Confirmation Camp this year is July 29-August 3, and open to all current 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. It is an expectation that you will attend confirmation camp at least once during your time in the confirmation process. We attend Camp Lutherhaven in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The cost is around \$300, and Our Redeemer's and student's hard work includes scholarships for each attendee.



## **Jesus and the Gospels: with Professor Luke Timothy Johnson of Emory University (on DVD)**

*Wednesdays ~ 10:30am-12pm*

*by Carolyn Swanson*

For 16 weeks we have gained new perspectives on Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Who knew each of these Gospel writers had a literary shape in mind, a planned-out message-bearing strategy? Well, now we know some of these Gospel intricacies.

So, what's next in this good news (Gospel) journey?

Turns out from the 2nd century on, Christianity has been prolific in the production of "Scripture-like" compositions that have been categorized as apocryphal. In addition to "other" Gospels, there are apocryphal letters and acts of various apostles and apocalypses.

For many of us, this will be our first glimpse into gospels, such as:

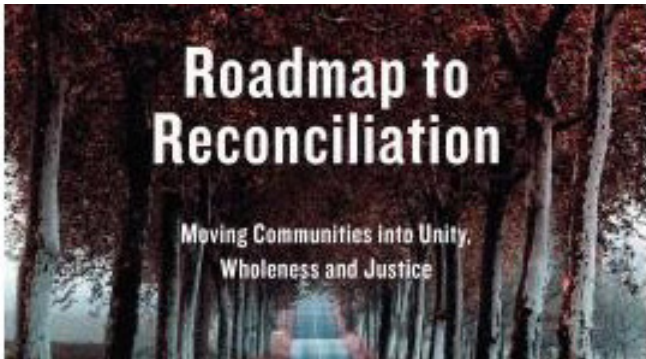
- Young Jesus—The Infancy Gospel of James
- The Infancy Gospel of Thomas
- Jewish Christian Narrative Gospels (extant fragments); these adhere to Jesus as Messiah but continue to affirm continuity with the tradition of Torah
- The Coptic Gospel of Thomas
- The Gospel of Mary, a fragmentary witness to the special role accorded to Mary Magdalen

There are others, but you get the idea. I have purchased some of these written fragments, so it should be enlightening to read and perceive their role in understanding Jesus. Why didn't they make it into the cannon? Gnosticism will raise its head as we muse over these writings; we'll learn about that too.

The people gathered around the library table each week are friendly, prayerful, curious, and funny (in the best sense). Having a couple of children wandering about adds to the fun. Being more Scripture-smart opens new inspiration by the Holy Spirit; it brings further insights to the sermons on Sunday too. Come join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the library. We break promptly at 12:00 noon. You would be truly welcomed. (Did I mention there are males attending?)



## SOCIAL JUSTICE / EARTHCARE



### Social Justice Reading Group

Thursday, April 12 ~ 7pm

What does it mean to follow Christ's example of compassion and love for the world and all humanity? What is social justice? It sounds nice, but what does it really mean? The Social Justice Reading Group meets monthly to discuss books that offer insight and inspiration in our lifelong efforts to understand how we might be a community in the model of Christ. This month, we're discussing chapter 4 of *Roadmap to Reconciliation* by Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil. Dr. Brenda's book gives a roadmap to show the way towards racial justice and reconciliation. The past couple months we've discussed what it feels and looks like when white supremacy rears its ugly head and a *catalytic event* happens to us personally or in our community. This month, discussing Chapter 4, we'll be discussing what the process of *realization*, when we experience a shift in perspective on our roadmap to racial reconciliation. Please join in, you don't have to have participated in previous discussions nor even have read the book to benefit from the discussion!



### Bring Sandwich Fixings and Make Some Sandwiches for Hungry Folks!

Sunday, April 29th ~ between services

Please bring gargantuan amounts of sandwich bread, sliced meats, & sliced cheese. We could use at least 20 loaves of bread and enough fixings to make at least 300 sandwiches. We could also use a delivery person on Monday morning. The sandwiches are delivered on Monday morning to Peter's Place Day Center for homeless men and women which is near Rainer Ave and I-90. Contact Cara ([outreach@ourredeemers.net](mailto:outreach@ourredeemers.net)) with questions, amounts you're purchasing, and if you'd like to help with delivery!

## Quilts and Personal Care Kits Blessed Before Going All Over the World

*Sunday, April 30 ~ 9am/11am*

On April 30 we will bless the personal care kits and quilts made by members of our congregation for Lutheran World Relief. Our quilts and kits will join those of congregations all over the country, and will bring warmth and beauty and God's love with people all over the globe. Some will be placed in strategic places to be used when disaster hits. Thank you, for all who donated items for the kits, and quilters for your ongoing ministry of love and warmth and beauty! Want to help create quilts? YOU can quilt, even if you have never quilted before. Just show up on Monday morning at 9AM. A friendly group will welcome you, show you the ropes and then feed you coffee and goodies.



As we prepare to send our carefully curated, packaged and boxed personal care kits to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to those in need throughout the world, let us bless them:

Gracious God, you formed and created us from the dust of the earth, and breathed into us life and love. Use these kits to care for the bodies of those who suffer, of those who are without, and of those who are weary.

May these towels wrap in comfort of your love the person who uses them. May they be warmed, and dried, so they can begin their day refreshed.

May these bars of soap be like the waters of baptism, cleansing each person of the dirt and grime of each day, leading them into hopefulness with a clean slate.

May these toothbrushes make each mouth filled with praise and thanksgiving for your love and grace. Let the words of their hearts be like minty-fresh blessings of grace.

May these combs help each person to feel confident in their creation in your image. Whether curly or straight, thick or thin, may their heads shine with the blessing of Jesus.

May these nail clippers free their users of unwanted burdens – trim their fingers and toes of excess, and lead them to handshakes of peace, and dances of joy.

All of these items we bless and send forth from this place in the name of Jesus Christ, the great gift giver. Use them, O God, for your glory.

Thanks be to God! Amen.





## Lutheran World Relief In-Loading

*Friday, May 4 ~ 8am-3pm*

*Saturday, May 5 ~ 8am-12noon*

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) needs a few more willing people – anyone who can lift 30 pound boxes – to help with the twice-a-year Seattle LWR quilt and kit collection. Food is provided for all. Volunteers work two-hour shifts. This is a physical Tetris game – we stack the boxes 9.5 feet high and 8 feet across in 53-foot long containers. The boxes range from banana and apple boxes to various packing boxes, so loading can be challenging. Please call Rich Mathes (206-384-1183) or Email [lwrmathes@aol.com](mailto:lwrmathes@aol.com) if interested in the loading, or just have questions.

## Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

*Friday, May 4 ~ 8am-3pm*

LET'S MAKE HELP FAMILIES PROVIDE FOR THEIR BASIC NEEDS, SO THEY CAN FOCUS ON BUILDING STRONGER FUTURES. LET'S BUILD KITS OF CARE! Through Lutheran World Relief's Project Promise, we will take ordinary items – like towels, bars of soap, and toothbrushes – and turn them into extraordinary gifts of God's love. Purchase and donate the following items — and help families cope through some of life's most difficult situations! Please purchase and donate these items:

- Bath towels (thinner is easier to hand wash and air dry, and dark colors preferred, approx. 52" by 27")
- Bath size soap bars (4-5oz, in original wrapping)
- Toothbrushes (adult size and in original packaging)
- Nail clippers
- Combs

Contact Stephanie Dykes ([stephanie\\_new@hotmail.com](mailto:stephanie_new@hotmail.com)) with any questions!



## Safe Parking for Vehicle Residence:

*Road2Housing update*

We continue to move forward in finding a new case-management partner for our Road to Housing program. While the program offering safe parking to vehicle residents is technically on hiatus, we're grateful to Shree Vigil of Compass Housing for continuing to provide case management to our remaining guest while we seek a new case management partner. We've met with a potential new partner and we continue to research and learn more to discern next best steps. Please feel free reach out to Cara Kiggins ([outreach@ourredeemers.net](mailto:outreach@ourredeemers.net)), with any questions or suggestions.

## EarthCare: Events in April & May

by Margaret Wetter

*"Compassionate and loving God,  
you created the world for us all to share  
a world of beauty and plenty.  
Create in us a desire to live simply  
so that our lives may reflect your generosity.*

*Creator God,  
you gave us responsibility for the earth,  
a world of riches and delight.  
Create in us a desire to live sustainably  
so that those who follow after us  
may enjoy the fruits of your creation.*

*God of peace and justice,  
you give us the capacity to change,  
to bring about a world that mirrors your image.  
Create in us a desire for solidarity  
so that the pillars of injustice crumble  
and those now crushed are set free.*

*Amen."*

Spring is here! While the EarthCare Team leads our community in caring for Creation all year 'round, Spring is in the spring that our activities really kick into high gear. Get ready ...here we go!

### **"BY THE WATERS" April 8, 15 & 22.**

Throughout the Bible, water plays an essential role in our understanding of the nature of God, as well as our relationship with both God and creation. The Bible includes over 500 references to water and hundreds more on watery themes. The ancient Israelites considered water a generous gift of God, to be appreciated and cherished. They understood that without water, there would be no life. Today, with water so readily available to most of us, we tend to take this gift for granted. In this three part **adult education series Sundays** April 8th, 15th, and 22nd we will delve into both the Biblical and the ecological importance of water and rivers in particular.

### **SPRING ELECTRONICS & STYROFOAM RECYCLING – Sat. April 14th, 10am to 2pm.**

Please note the new, shorter hours. We are once again partnering with Living Green to take your old electronics, and with Styro-Recycle to collect clean, dry styrofoam. This is a fundraiser for the youth trip to Houston for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. We will also collect gently used clothing for donation to The Bridge Care Center.



**EARTHCARE RETREAT: April 20-22.** EarthDay is celebrated on April 22nd each year. We will honor the Earth by helping to clean up Point Grenville Beach on the coast. This will be our fourth annual retreat to clean up Point Grenville, which is a part of the Quinalt Indian Nation, and all that the tides have washed ashore in the past year. It is a FUN retreat, but more importantly it is tremendously satisfying.

**BIKES VS. CARS FILM SCREENING. Sun April 29th 4pm.** Enjoy some snacks and a film on a big screen in the Fellowship Hall.

About the film Bikes vs. Cars: Climate change and never-ending gridlocks frustrate people more than ever. Instead of whining, people in cities around the world take on the bicycle as a Do It Yourself solution. Road rage and poor city planning creates daily death amongst the bicyclists. And now they demand safe lanes.





## Sun May 6th is EARTHCARE SUNDAY!

- We will have a guest preacher (tba)
- We encourage everyone (who is able) to **bike to worship** that morning and we will have a **Blessing of the Bicycles!** There will also be a kid and adult-friendly **Bicycle Parade**. Be sure to decorate your bike for the parade!

**May is Bike Month.** As part of this, Pastor Gretchen and Pastor Kathy will be out on the streets to bless bicycles on

- May 9th – Bike to Work Day, and
- May 18th – Bike to School Day

If all of this sounds like the kind of thing you'd like to be more involved with, then please think about joining the EarthCare Team! We are small (but mighty) and would love to grow! We meet only once per quarter. Please ask a current EarthCare Team member if you'd like to know more: Linda Ellingboe, Cara Kiggins, Tricia Kloth, Candace Todd-Robbins, Margaret Wetter.

Perhaps you don't want to join the team, but you'd like to help out with a specific event. If that's the case, please contact ...

Margaret Wetter (margaretwetter@comcast.net) about helping to plan activities for the time after Easter.

Cara Kiggins (outreach@ourredeemers.net) about volunteering at the Spring Recycling Event on April 14th. It's easy! It's fun!

Margaret or Cara about helping to plan for EarthCare Sunday, including fun activities for bicyclists, on May 6th.



## Bike to Church on EarthCare Sunday

*Sunday, May 6 ~ 10am*

May is Bike Month! In honor of Bike Month, if you are able, ride your bike to church for EarthCare Sunday. Our EarthCare Sunday festivities will include a bike blessing and a bike parade. The kids will decorate their bikes during Kids Church and parade at 10:00am, adults are welcome to join in. You won't want to miss it.

## Volunteer to Help Neighborhood E-Cycling Event Happen!

*Saturday, April 14th ~ 10am-2pm*

Twice a year, Our Redeemer's hosts a neighborhood-wide event inviting people to bring their old electronics, clothing, and styrofoam to be recycled in sustainable ways. The community has grown to expect and rely on this community service, and we need to make sure we have enough volunteer support to make it happen! Can you be one of the 16 volunteers needed? Sign up here: [www.volunteersignup.org/LQAXJ](http://www.volunteersignup.org/LQAXJ)



## Eating Dinner with our Muslim Neighbors

*Sunday, April 15*

*530pm*

*Idris Mosque*

*1420 NE Northgate Way*

*Seattle, WA 98125*

Eating Dinner with our Muslim Neighbors

Getting to know our neighbors has never been so delicious – so much amazing food and flavors! About 10 of us attended the Idris Mosque Friendship Potluck in February, enjoying good food, delightful company, and insightful conversations. We respond to the rise in organized Islamophobia through solidarity with our Muslim neighbors – it's as simple as shared meals and relationship. Save the date for the next mosque potluck, Sunday April 15th at 5:30pm.



## Feed the Hungry: Ballard Sunday Dinner

*Sunday, April 15 ~ 5pm*

*Ballard First Lutheran Basement*

Our next turn to feed the hungry and unhoused in our community will be on April 15th. Feed the hungry and get to know our Ballard neighbors.

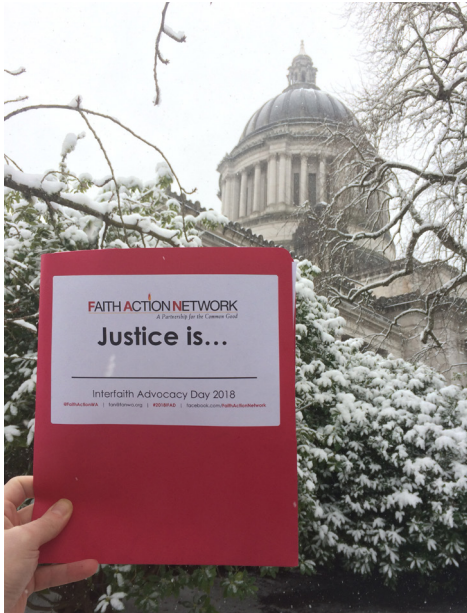
The following volunteer shifts are available:

- Lead: meal plan, shop, and direct cooks 2-6pm
- Cooks: prepare food and serve – 2-6pm
- Set Up & Serve: (great for a teen or child with accompanying adult) – 4-6pm
- Greeter – 4-6p
- Serve & Shut Down – 5:30-7:30pm

One volunteer's experience:

*"I remember a woman with tears in her eyes sitting at a table. I went over to her and asked if I can give her a hug. She said she needed a hug and was so grateful for a place to come in out of the rainy weather and share a hot meal. Almost everyone makes a point of saying thank you."*

Please, if you're available the afternoon of Sun April 15th, sign up online at [tinyurl.com/ballardsundaydinner/](http://tinyurl.com/ballardsundaydinner/)



## Interfaith Advocacy Day 2018 was February 20 in Olympia

*By Faith Action Network*

We are still giving thanks for a full and spirited Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia! Our network is full of intrepid people—whether the snow is falling as it did all day on Tuesday, or the forecast for their favorite bills is cloudy, they use the power of their presence and voice to advocate with their elected officials.

More than 285 advocates joined us on Tuesday, draped in orange scarves in solidarity with orange worn for gun violence prevention in the wake of Parkland and anti-hunger advocacy that is core to FAN. The morning started with a welcome from Rev. Dr. Tammy Stampfli and Lara Crutsinger-Perry from The

United Churches of Olympia, our hosts and a member of our network. Faith leaders provided short reflections on how their faith traditions call for advocacy: Rabbi Aaron Meyer of Temple De Hirsch Sinai focused on hope, reminding us that Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) is both our heritage and mission. Abbot Genjo Marinello of Chobo-Ji Zen community in Seattle reminded us that it's not enough that we pray; our faith communities can do much together to make an impact for justice. Rev. Bianca Davis-Lovelace spoke powerfully about her own experience of feeling God's presence in activism for Black Lives Matter and in standing with the poor and marginalized in society; she is helping organize Washington Poor Peoples' Campaign.

Attendees met together in 36 legislative district caucuses, getting to know their neighbors and putting together plans for their legislative visits that followed in the afternoon. Workshops on issues critical to our communities were offered, including:

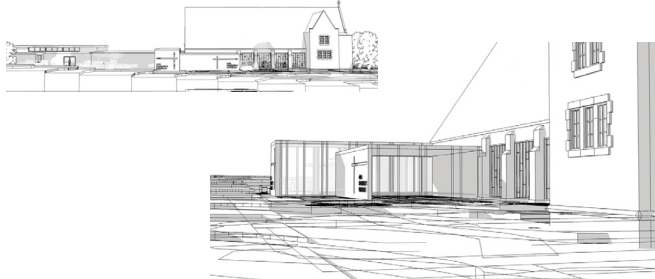
- Advocacy 101 with Claire Lane of the Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
- Budget Issues with Julie Watts from Washington Budget and Policy Center and Jackie Vaughn of All In for Washington, along with our FAN Economic Justice Working Group co-chairs Jane Sisk and Steve Clagett
- Protecting Housing and Preventing Homelessness with Michael Ramos of the Church Council of Greater Seattle and Phoebe Nelson, Wenatchee board member of the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance.
- Sustaining Washington's Environment with Jessica Zimmerle and Leda Zakarison from Earth Ministry and Abby Brockway from FAN's Environmental Justice Working Group.
- Promoting Safe and Just Communities through Gun Safety with Cathy Munsen from the Alliance for Gun Responsibility and Criminal Justice Reform with FAN Co-Director Paul Benz.

Legislators paid special visits to address the group, including Breakfast After the Bell champion Rep. Monica Stonier, Rep. Karen Keiser, Sen. Rebecca Saldana, and Rep. Mike Chapman. Abby Brockway led some singing for climate justice around the sundial while snow fell.

FAN advocates walk their talk! We hope to see you next year!



# BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION!



Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church  
Concept Plan Update  
December 21, 2016

## Review of Recent Vision-Aligned Building Work

While there hasn't been any construction work going on since the completion of the fellowship hall project, the VAB Team has been very busy the past several months laying the groundwork for the next stage of our long-awaited building project. To review:

### Summer, 2017

Work completed on initial fellowship hall phase of project by LzL Construction (Woodinville). Requests for Proposals sent out to contractors for next phase of VAB project. New fellowship hall and safe parking hygiene facilities dedicated to the glory of God. Susan Jones, FAIA, LEED AP and her team at atelierjones llc (Seattle) resume work on next phase of project.

### Fall, 2017

The VAB Team recommends, and the Congregation approves unanimously, to continue with LzL Construction for the remainder of the building work. VAB Team has several discussions internally and with project architect Susan Jones and LzL on planning next steps in the project. Initial Building Survey reviewed and building walk-through conducted by representatives from LzL, atelierjones llc, and structural engineer consultant.

### December/January, 2017-18

Authorization to Proceed services contract was signed with atelierjones. Permit pre-submittal meetings were scheduled with the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection (DCI) as described below. VAB Team increases its meetings to a weekly basis. Monthly updates continue to be provided to Church Council and the church newsletter by the Parish Administrator, Don Boelter.

Members of the atelierjones architecture team, along with Don, attended a City of Seattle Building Permit pre-submittal meeting with a Building Plans Examiner Supervisor at the City Building. There, Susan and her team went over the most recent design plans for the project and answered a number of questions about the project from the city examiner. The primary intent of this meeting was to determine whether the project as currently envisioned would trigger a "Substantial Alteration" per city code. A Substantial Alteration decision would bring with it a series of code requirements that would potentially require significant additional design and construction costs, and potentially reduce flexibility in how we go about achieving our VAB project goals.

After further consultation with Substantial Alteration experts at the City of Seattle, the plans examiner came back with a determination that due to the general size of the new construction as currently proposed in our project, relative to the overall size of the building, our plans would likely trigger a Substantial Alteration determination. Our architecture team began research on how to move forward with the project with the presumed Substantial Alteration determination, and also prepared possible alternative approaches and designs that could avoid a Substantial Alteration determination.

Members of the atelierjones team and Don Boelter also met with a City of Seattle Design Review Planner to review the project and possible alternative approaches to identify any potential Land Use issues. As expected, DCI came back with a determination that the project would not trigger SEPA (Seattle Environmental Protection Act), but we will have to go through a Conditional Use permit process, which is not a significant issue, but good to know as we move forward.

The VAB Team met with project architect, Susan Jones, and the owner of our contractor, LzL Construction, to look at several alternative approaches to take as we move forward with the renovation work, including further phasing of different aspects of the project with the intent of avoiding a Substantial Alteration determination.

## **February/March 2018**

After discussing in great detail the merits and disadvantages of each approach at follow-up meetings, the VAB Team unanimously agreed that we should move forward with the full project as envisioned in the strategic goals of the congregation and expressed in the plans of the architect. Changing the scope and plans of the project at this point may have some effect on reducing the total costs, but at the price of decreasing the future accessibility, flexibility, and possibly even safety in the renovated building. Additionally, much of the potential savings gained by avoiding a Substantial Alteration determination could be eaten up with increased “soft costs” of construction management, increased building supplies expenses, et cetera by stretching out the length of the work over the course of additional phases and years.

However, since the costs of staying on track with the project as originally envisioned are significantly higher than estimated due to the Substantial Alteration determination, by some \$1.0 to \$1.5 million, the question becomes focused on how to finance the plan without

overly burdening the congregation with long-term debt. The VAB Team consulted with three people with expertise in these matters: a land use attorney, an architect, and a project manager with experience in similar types of church projects. In these informal meetings, the Team received information and asked questions about successful church renovation projects that were financed partially or in whole through the sale of church property and/or development rights.

As a result of these conversations, the VAB Team requested Susan Jones, project architect, come up with and present several possible land rezoning and property development options that could provide additional revenue to meet the costs of the remainder of the VAB project. The Team will review the potential of these options to generate revenue for future building renovation work. We are optimistic that we will be able to find the right financing approach to fulfill our renovation project goals, while at the same time furthering Our Redeemer’s Strategic Objectives of transforming spirituality, deepening community, and inviting people in/ministry-focused outreach. We believe a win-win solution is possible.

Once the team has reached consensus on an approach, we will schedule a Congregational informational meeting to address how to move forward in light of the Substantial Alteration determination challenges. Don will continue to provide updates to the Church Council at its monthly meetings and to the Congregation via this newsletter

The VAB team plans to continue to meet on a weekly basis as we work our way through this process. If you have any questions about the latest status of the project, please contact any of the team members: Mike Hlastala, Pastor Kathy Hawks, Jim Arnold, Ryan Mertes, Kirsten Malone, Guy Michaelsen, and Don Boelter, Parish Administrator ([administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net); 206-783-7900 x107).

# COMMUNITY



## Madonnas Book Group

*April 15 ~ 4pm*

We will meet to discuss Silence, by Shusaku Endo. The location is at Candace Todd-Robbins' house. Contact Margaret Wetter (margaretwetter@comcast.net) if you have any questions.



## Men's Breakfast

*Wednesday, April 4 ~ 7am*

*Patty's Egg Nest (9749 Holman Rd NW)*

Refresh your spirit with good company, coffee, and pancakes at Patty's Egg Nest. Please note the venue change, as the Original Pancake House is now closed.



## Community Cuisine Group Continues to Feed One Another!

*Sunday, April 8 ~ 130pm-330pm*

We all have to eat, right? But sometimes life doesn't allow time to cook, much less to cook something yummy and nutritious.

But there's enjoyable help on its way.

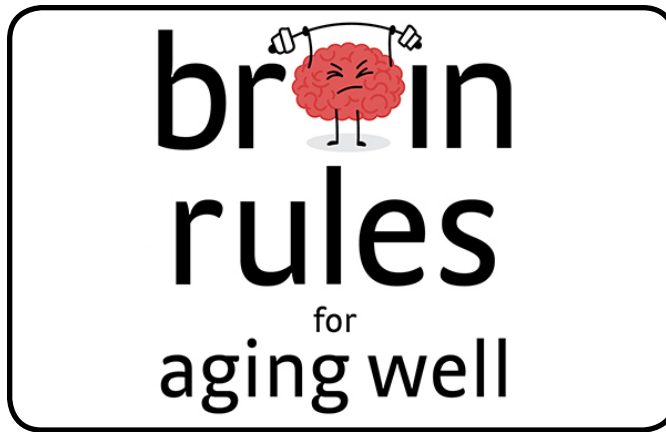
Most second Sundays of the month, anyone who would like to, is invited to bring ingredients and necessary implements for an 8-person main dish to Our Redeemer's kitchen. Then we cook! Which is so much more fun with company..and sometimes music and little left-over cooking wine!

And then, perhaps best yet, we exchange meals, so we each go home with 8 new dishes to put in the freezer for those nights when you are just too tired to even think about what to eat, much less to cook.

We've done it 5 times so far, and it's been a delicious, nutritious and enjoyable way to get acquainted.

What better way to spend 2 hours on a Sunday afternoon? Please let Pastor Kathy know if you plan to come and what you'll bring. Hope to see you there!





## **Life Masters (Seniors): BRAIN RULES FOR AGING WELL (Cont.)**

*by: Lars Sveum Hanson*

*Friday, April 13 ~ noon-2pm*

You thought eating right and getting exercise are what aging well is all about, didn't you? Well, you're not WRONG, but you're only about 10% of the way toward aging in a fulfilling way.

The Life Masters will continue our discussion of Brain Rules for Aging Well, by Dr. John Medina, at our next meeting.

On March 9, we heard Dr. Medina's lecture to Google employees and we started to discuss the importance of nostalgia and reminiscences to our social connectedness, which is, in turn, essential to our well-being and brain health. Dr. Medina, a professor at UW Med School, brings a background in neurobiology, behavioral sciences and cellular biology. He also brings a rapid fire and animated speaking style, with plenty of repetition, good examples and visual aids. And he insists the science confirms that our brains do not stop learning or growing as we age, and, if we are intentional, we can definitely slow and turn around the effects of aging on our cognition.

In April we will continue discussing this incredibly interesting and practical book. We invite you to come, ready to share your answer to the question, "What is your favorite movie? Or book? Or piece of music? What stage of life were you in when you became familiar with it?"

We'll open things up for discussing any part of the book that strikes our fancy!

Bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages and dessert provided.

Come if you are free! We want to hear your answers!

### **TULIP FIELDS ANYONE?**

Life Masters originally planned a trip to the tulip fields in April, but the cost of bus trips was prohibitive, and many were not up for carpooling.

But some ARE interested, and plan to go. No date or specifics have been set yet. If you would like to join them, please let Nancy OldenKamp know as soon as possible, and she can add you to the email/ phone tree of those making the plans.

# Steven In Hungary

MY JOURNEY WITH YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION

ISSUE 4: MARCH 2018



## These are my people.

And I'm theirs! I've been adopted. Living abroad can be lonely, even frightening, but community embraces and surrounds me. These folks are the reason I'm here, and the best part of being here.

Welcome to the Élim! It's a nursing home for women living with disabilities, supported by the Hungarian Lutheran Church. Have you met "The Girls"? I don't know when I've gotten to hang out with more welcoming people. Every Tuesday I get to teach some English, do some crafts, and sing a lot of songs with them! In this photo I'm with some of my good friends, Anita, Bimbo, Hini, and Vivii!

I have a lot of different communities here, as at home. I have the Élim, where I join the staff and The Girls every Tuesday. I have my friends the students of the Lutheran Roma College, who I live with. In January they took me to the theater! I get to practice my English with these students, and sometimes Hungarian. I have been warmly welcomed by the Lutheran church community, including the choir. I have the community of my cohort of other Young Adults in Global Mission serving in Central Europe, and of course, I have all of you readers in my communities at home!



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## Comings and goings

As always, January and February have been busy!. I've gotten to travel more. The whole Central Europe team met up twice in two weeks; the first time in Budapest for a conference hosted by Phiren Amenca, a Roma-rights advocacy group. I thought I would learn a lot about Roma people, but instead I learned a lot about myself, and how \*I\* looked at the challenges of poverty. The choir had a belated name day for all the Stevens since the official St. Stephen's Day was December 26. Choir is big on name day and birthday parties!

For our Lenten retreat a week later the we took a bus accross the Serbian border to Belgrade. Serbia is a different place for sure, and it felt important to learn about. Belgrade is a city that's both modern and medieval, with everything in between. Bombed-out buildings stand out like scars, monuments to the wars in Yugoslavia that weren't so long ago.

There's a lot to see in Central Europe. I celebrated my birthday by visiting Romania with some fellow international teachers. But the best thing to see here is community.



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I love my bed and  
my friends at Mary's  
Place.  
Thank you for helping  
my family!  
Joshua, age 12



"We are so lucky to have compassionate supporters like you as part of our Mary's Place family! Thanks to you, we have been able to expand our services to continue to meet the needs of the growing numbers of women, parents, and children coming through our doors. We can continue to provide hot meals, job counseling, housing resources, medical help, or a warm, dry bed. Thanks to your generous donations from your Giving Tree (\$420), we can welcome them inside!

With your support, we connect families with housing, and employment specialists, childcare, phones, mail, clothing, medical services, nutritious meals, and emergency shelter. You make it possible for us to get kids back into their schools, and help parents find stable housing to begin again.

Thank you for standing with families experiencing homelessness and helping us grow to serve them. You see the need and help us fill it. Your love sustains us!

-Lea Tiernan  
Chief Development Officer  
Mary's Place

Dear Kathy, Gretchen, Nancy, & the rest of the wonderful  
people @ Our Redeemers,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flower card! It made my  
day & brings me such warm energy to feel your joy & kindness.  
In fact it's still lovingly displayed on our counter so I can look  
at it every day.

Thank you also for helping me on my spiritual journey. My time at  
Our Redeemers was shorter than I expected (wanted/needed) - but I am  
forever grateful for your kindness & guidance.

Thank you for everything, and I'll be sure to make my way up to  
Our Redeemers in the future. Please keep in touch!

♥ Sarah Ott

SUNDAYS: 9am - Informal Worship 11am - Traditional Worship		APRIL 2018					ourredeemers.net/calendar	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<b>1</b> <b>EASTER!</b> 8am Easter Breakfast 10am Easter Egg Hunt	<b>2</b> Office Closed 9am Quilters	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Office Closed* 7am Men's Breakfast 1030am Bible Study 5pm VAB Meeting 6pm Youth Choir 6pm National Youth Gathering Planning 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir	<b>5</b> 345pm Staff Meeting 6pm Centering Prayer and Meal 7pm Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 130pm Folders	<b>7</b> 9am Traditional Worship Team Meeting		
<b>8</b> 10am "By the Waters" focus begins 130pm Meal Group	<b>9</b> 9am Quilters	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8am VAB Meeting 9am Executive Committee 10am Staff Meeting 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir	<b>12</b> 6pm Centering Prayer 7pm Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal 7pm Social Justice Reading Group	<b>13</b> 12pm LifeMasters 130pm Folders	<b>14</b> 10am-2pm E-Recycling Event		
<b>15</b> 10am Youth Confirmation 4pm Bike Vs. Cars Film Screening 5pm Ballard Sunday Dinner	<b>16</b> 9am Quilters	<b>17</b> 630pm Church Council Bible Study and Meeting	<b>18</b> 10am Staff Meeting 1030am Bible Study 5pm VAB Meeting 6pm Youth Choir 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir	<b>19</b> 6pm Centering Prayer 7pm Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>20</b> EarthCare Retreat 130pm Folders	<b>21</b> EarthCare Retreat		
<b>22</b> EarthCare Retreat	<b>23</b> 9am Quilters	<b>24</b> 7pm Theology on Tap (Katlin Dickinson- Laurence & Harold Laurence's Place)	<b>25</b> 8am VAB Meeting 10am Staff Meeting 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir	<b>26</b> 6pm Centering Prayer 7pm Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 130pm Folders	<b>28</b>		
<b>29</b> Blessing of the Quilts Healing Prayer 1010am Sandwich Sunday	<b>30</b> 9am Quilters							

\*Staff will devote the first Wednesday of each month to professional development and planning.

## MILESTONES

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### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Susan Hanson	6	Britta Wallstrom	17	Candace Todd-Robbins
1	Kirsten Malone	7	Joanne Marson	18	Hazel Prentice
1	Ken Prentice	8	Jonath Ochs	19	Benjamin Dovich
2	Stephanie Fowler	9	Carolyn Lewis	19	Earl Ecklund
2	Aden Michaelsen	9	Peter Richmond	20	Philip Dovich
3	Torin Ege	10	Tyler Glover	21	Laurie Soine
3	Lucas Frantz	10	Annika Thomas	22	Pamela Altman
3	April Lotshaw	12	Kate Miller	22	Connor Osborn
3	Carolyn Swanson	13	Christina Forssen	23	Matthew Buening
4	Kathy Nelson	15	Morgan Fowler	26	Jan Ward
4	Kris Templin	16	Atticus Hogben	28	James Shue
4	Connor White	16	Genevieve Knight	29	KC Carroll
4	Nicholas White	17	Ava Haroldson		

### Follow Us on Instagram!



We are on Instagram! Follow us and see what exciting things are happening around the church. @ourredeemersballard

### Like Us on Facebook!



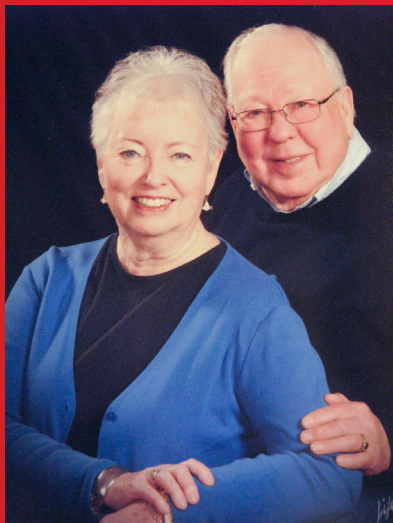
DO YOU LIKE OUR REDEEMER'S? **THEN LIKE OUR REDEEMER'S FACEBOOK PAGE!**  
An easy way to invite and engage your friends.



### Photo Directory Update

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a photo or got their picture taken on one of the Sunday's in March. We will be going through each member and updating our current records and contacting you if we still need any information. If you have not yet submitted a photo, please do so ASAP to Nancy Oldenkamp (office@ourredeemers.net). *Thank you!*





## Member Highlight:

### Sally Parker-Henderson & Doug Starup

#### **DOUG STARUP:**

I have a long history with Our Redeemer's. I was married at Our Redeemer's in 1950. My four children were baptized and confirmed at Our Redeemer's and my wife was sent to heaven from Our Redeemer's. Over the years I was on the church council most of the time and was Council President several times. (I remember one council meeting where it was decided to offer a grant to a young woman who wanted to attend seminary. That young woman was Kathy Hawks.)

I was a volunteer laborer on the two additions to the church building and served on many committees and projects. Then in 1997, when Sally and I became a couple, we both agreed that we needed a neutral place to worship. We transferred our individual memberships to Immanuel Lutheran Church in South Lake Union. We had twenty wonderful years in that parish, serving in many different capacities.

As I approached my 90th birthday last fall, for some reason, I had this desire to return to my home parish for the remainder of my life. I'm blessed to have Sally as my life partner who has wholeheartedly encouraged me to follow my heart and return to Our Redeemer's.

#### **SALLY PARKER-HENDERSON:**

I grew up attending Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, going to Lincoln H.S. and then PLU. I was a member of Our Redeemer's many years ago and still remember a few members now, from that time. That would have been 1964-68 where I first knew Doug Starup, who was then council president. My first child was born and baptized during that time at Our Redeemer's.

Since then, I raised two children, owned my own home in Edmonds, spent all my working years in Education, and retired from Lakeside School in 2000. Doug and I ran into one another in 1996 in the QFC wine department on 24th. We hadn't seen one another for many years. We began dating and have been partnered ever since.

My interests are watercolor painting, traveling with Doug overseas and in North America, photography and cooking. I currently teach watercolor painting in my studio at our home in North Beach. I look forward to meeting all of you and I am enjoying what I am seeing at Our Redeemer's through its good music and gifted pastoral team.



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**SUN, APRIL 1 @ 10AM**  
**Easter Egg Hunt!**

#### **WEEKLY WORSHIP**

Sunday - 9 a.m. (Informal) 11 a.m. (Traditional)  
Thursday - 6 p.m. (Centering Prayer)



## **SPRING ELECTRONICS & STYROFOAM RECYCLING!**

*Saturday, April 14th*  
*10am-2pm*