

AUGUST 2018



# *The*Visitor

day by day



A COMMUNITY IN THE MODEL OF CHRIST



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*COVER: A group of folks went to Holden Village for a relaxing and refreshing week last month.  
INSIDE COVER: Having a CAMPtastic time at Vacation Bible School!*



**Our community, our calling.**



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

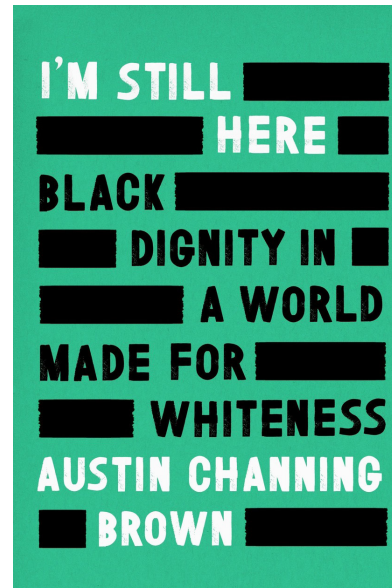
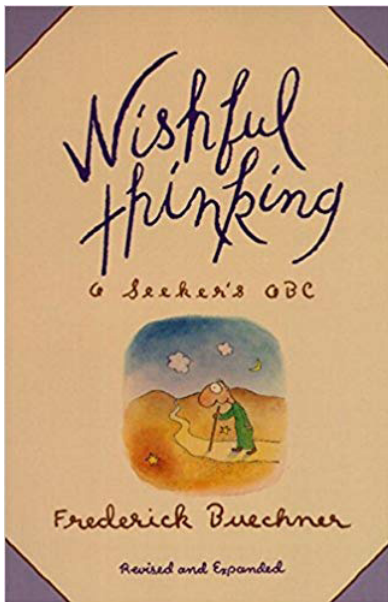
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## FROM THE STAFF...

Yep. Camping. Corraling some friends and heading to the air-conditioned movie theater. Hunkering down in your favorite hammock. Passing time while waiting for the plane, train or ferry.

That's the beauty of summertime time!

And your staff is here for you! With some favorites of our own for you to check out during the lazy, crazy days of summer. We hope you enjoy!



### **Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC,** *by Frederick Buechner.*

My copy is tattered from lending it out over and over. There's a paragraph or a page on everything from "Agnostic" to "Wine". A couple one-liners (not as good as the whole definitions):

- **"ANGER:** Of the Seven Deadly Sin, anger is possibly the most fun."
- **"LUST:** Is the craving for salt of a person who is dying for thirst."
- **"VOCATION:** The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

Bite off whatever you have time for and be amused, moved and possibly, changed!

*-Pastor Kathy Hawks*

### **I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness** *by Austin Channing Brown*

I read this book on recommendation from my favorite authors: Brene Brown, Glennon Doyle, and Nadia Bolz-Weber. They were right! It's a profound read that made me think and question all my assumptions about race, the church, and white privilege. Which is indeed, saying something. I highly recommend this book.

*-Pastor Gretchen Mertes*



## First Reformed

Intelligent and thoughtful films about modern Christianity are in rare supply, at least amongst those films that have come across my radar screen. A quick scan of IMDB's "100 Best Christian Movies" seems to confirm this thought – 1997's *The Apostle* looks like the last one...that is until now.

*First Reformed*, currently in theaters, is definitely not light summer fare, but is the best look at the struggle the modern American Christian faces that I've seen depicted on film.

Ethan Hawk plays a conflicted Protestant priest with a tragic history. His parish is a tiny historic church in upstate New York that is more museum than house of worship. Destined for destruction, the chapel is saved by a wealthy patron and falls under the umbrella of a nearby "mega-church" pastored by a charismatic preacher played by Cedric the Entertainer.

A young pregnant woman (portrayed by Amanda Seyfreid) and her troubled husband come into the priest's life and challenge his faith and outlook on the world in deep and disturbing ways. His dark night of the soul crashes into the young man's obsession with the death of the planet, and the mega-church's view of Christianity offers no solace for either.

Dark and demanding, this is a film that will force you to examine your faith, and maybe more importantly, your role as a Christian in our current American society.

–Don Boelter, Parish Administrator



## Sabbath As Resistance

by *Walter Brueggemann*

I highly recommend *Sabbath as Resistance* by Walter Brueggemann, and not just because it's our next Reading Group book! It's a short little book and an easy read at that, but it is so rich and full of insight – it completely changed my perspective on the concept of 'Sabbath'. The online book sellers summarize it perfectly:

"Popular author Walter Brueggemann writes that the Sabbath is not simply about keeping rules but rather about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society. Brueggemann calls out our 24/7 society of consumption, a society in which we live to achieve, accomplish, perform, and possess. We want more, own more, use more, eat more, and drink more. Brueggemann shows readers how keeping the Sabbath allows us to break this restless cycle and focus on what is truly important: God, other people, all life. Perfect for groups or self-reflection, *Sabbath as Resistance* offers a transformative vision of the wholeness God intends, giving world-weary Christians a glimpse of a more fulfilling and simpler life through Sabbath observance."

–Cara Kiggins, Social Justice Coordinator





## Choir of the West Reunion 2018

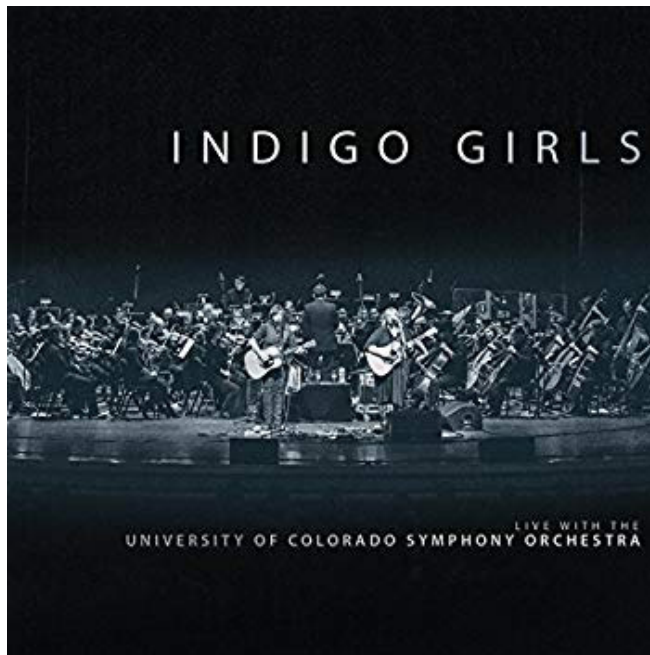
My music recommendation is easy to find on YouTube. Search for “Choir of the West Reunion 2018” and you’ll see a 52-minute concert which has undoubtedly been one of my early summer highlights!

On July 1, Pacific Lutheran University hosted a reunion concert for the “Sparks Era” Choir of the West alumni. Dr. Richard Sparks directed PLU’s premiere choir from 1983 to 2001. I experienced great joy singing in this choir as a student, and decades later, 137 of us spent one Saturday reminiscing and rehearsing together in order to perform in this special event.

You’ll hear Lutheran classics including “A Mighty Fortress”, “O Day Full of Grace,” and “Beautiful Savior”, as well as music spanning several time periods and cultures. We sing eleven songs in total – in five different languages – English, Latin, German, Russian, and Swedish!

I often feel closest to God when singing or listening to music. Give yourself an hour to take in these beautiful songs, and you’ll see how the choral music tradition has inspired me. My hope is that watching this concert will inspire you, too!

–Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director



## Indigo Girls: Live with the University of Colorado Symphony Orchestra

My favorite band, hands down, is the Indigo Girls. I’ve often said if I had to put together a playlist of my life, they would be the majority of the songs. They have such a way of putting thoughts to words and mixing it with glorious harmonies. Their first album came out in 1985 and they’ve been making music constantly since then. The last album they released reinvents so many of the classics with a full orchestra. Whether you’re looking for a love song like *Power of Two*, or a political song like *Able to Sing*, or just something to jam out to like *Chickenman*-- they’ve got it all!

–Jonath Ochs, Communications Coordinator

## BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION!



### August 2018 Vision-Aligned Building (VAB) Update

Our VAB Team has provided excellent guidance facing the unexpected prospect of at least an additional \$1.5 million to bring our facility up to the City of Seattle codes for earthquake, fire, and accessibility due to the cost and scope of our project. The way forward has not been easy to discern, with many variables, benefits, costs and risks to our mission to our finances and to our ability to connect positively with our wider community. These have had a huge impact on our congregation's ability to thrive in the future, so our congregation's patience and support as they work to find the best solutions—financially and for our vision is much appreciated.

### 2018 Timeline

- Building Permit pre-submittal meeting with a Building Plans Examiner Supervisor at the City Building and follow-up consultation with Substantial Alteration experts at the City of Seattle (January)
- Seattle DCI plans examiner comes 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. A Sub Alt decision would bring with it a series of code requirements that would potentially require significant additional design and constructions costs, and potentially reduce flexibility in how we go about achieving our VAB project goals. (January)



- Architecture team prepares possible alternative approaches and designs that could avoid a Substantial Alteration determination. The VAB Team meet with architect and our contractor 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. (January)
- After several meetings, further research and much deliberation, VAB Team reaches consensus that we should move forward with the full project as envisioned in the strategic goals of the congregation and expressed in the most recent plans of the architect (February/March)
- However, since the costs of staying on track with the project as originally envisioned are significantly higher than anticipated due to the Substantial Alteration determination, by at least \$1.5 million, the question becomes focused on how to finance the plan without overly burdening the congregation with long-term debt. (February/March)
- The VAB Team meet with a land use attorney, architect, and 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. (February/March)
- The project architect develops and presents several possible land rezoning and property development options that could provide additional revenue to meet the costs of the remainder of the VAB project. (April)
- O'Connor Consulting Group (Seattle) retained and provides an appraisal of the non-contiguous church-owned properties located across NW 25th Street from the primary church property. (May)
- VAB Team provides update of work to date and current status at Congregational meeting, and continues to meet almost weekly to discuss possible approaches. (June)
- Further conversations and meetings with project architect and contractor scheduled (took place after publication deadline) in order to vet possible approach suggested by VAB Team. (July)

Once the team, in consultation with our contractor and architect, has determined the best approach, we will schedule a Congregational informational meeting to address how to move forward in light of the financial challenges the Substantial Alteration determination presents.

Don Boelter, Parish Administrator (administrator@ourredeemers.net, 206-783-7900 x107) will continue to provide updates to the Church Council at its monthly meetings and to the Congregation via the monthly The Visitor and fellowship hall bulletin board space.

The Vision Aligned is: Mike Hlastala, Pastor Kathy Hawks, Ryan Mertes, Kirstin Malone, Jim Arnold, Guy Michaelson, and Don Boelter.



## Annual Meeting

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 17. And also a big thanks to Latife Neu and Paul Wallstrom, who co-chaired the meeting and were recognized for their outstanding service to the church as outgoing Council Co-Presidents. Also recognized were Andrew Brissette, outgoing council member, and new at large-council members Emilie Purvine (had been serving as interim), Terrence Rindler, and Morgan Fowler. Amy Dahlgren was elected Treasurer, replacing Morgan who has served in that position for the past three years.

In addition to recognizing outgoing Council Members and voting for new members, Pastor Kathy gave her annual "State of the Church" remarks and Morgan presented the end of the fiscal year financial report. Both emphasized that we are seeing growth consistent with the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan, and that is great news, but that continued increases in giving and membership are needed in order to sustain our current staffing levels (this is also consistent with Strategic Plan).

Morgan and Don Boelter, Parish Administrator presented the 2018-19 Fiscal Year Budget for Congregational approval. The budget that was passed included 4.8% increase in spending over last year's budget. The largest line item increase was a Church Council initiated and approved 3.5% across-the-board staff salary increase. If you would like to see the detailed, line-by-budget, please contact Don ([administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net), 206-783-7900 x107).

Finally, Vision-aligned Building Team members, Mike Hlastala and Don Boelter reviewed VAB Team work over the last year, and gave an update on the current status of the next phase of the VAB Project. There will be a future dedicated Congregational meeting held before moving forward with the next phase. Please see elsewhere in this newsletter for current information on status of VAB Project.



## New At-Large Council Members



### **TERRANCE RINDLER:**

Terrence has been attending Our Redeemer's since 2011. He and his wife Lindsay were married at the church in 2014 and their daughter Lena was baptized here. He plays guitar and bass in the 9am music ensemble and previously had been a member of the stewardship committee spanning multiple fall campaigns. Terrence is originally from Michigan, but has lived in Seattle since 2004. He works as an engineer at a biotech company that creates treatments for blood cancer and enjoys running and brewing beer when he has free time.

*"We've really come to appreciate everything that Our Redeemer's offers us as a family, both spiritually and as a community. I'm excited by the direction the church is going and the*

*upcoming decisions that will shape its future. I'd be honored to represent the whole congregation in those discussions as a council member".*



### **EMILIE PURVINE:**

I've been attending Our Redeemer's for almost two years, but it feels like so much longer (in a good way!). Our Redeemer's quickly felt like a family, welcoming me into so many different ministries -- adult confirmation, Ballard Sunday suppers, Christmas and Easter handbells, and so much more. When I was asked a few months ago to step into the church council I didn't have to think very long about it before agreeing. Our Redeemer's gives so much to the community and to its members, I'm happy to give what I can back to the church. I'm a pretty analytical person, taking in information from

a variety of sources, thinking about it all, and discussing it with people before making any big decisions. I appreciate the opportunity to do that for the church alongside the rest of the council.

I work for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory as a mathematician and data scientist. I spend my time thinking about fun mathematics in the context of applications like cyber security and information integration. The best parts of my job are solving real world problems and explaining them to the greater community!



### **MATT GROVER:**

Matt Grover has been a member of ORLC since 2012. He has lived in Ballard with his husband Tom Bernard since 1993. Matt grew up in Bellingham and currently teaches in the Edmonds School District.



### **MORGAN FOWLER:**

I have been a member of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church since 2012 and have served as the Our Redeemer's treasurer for the last three years. While my term is over as treasurer, I'm honored to be continue to serve on council. I found the Church later in life and I'm excited to continue my journey to learn and know God with the love and support from this congregation and do my best to deepen our community through God. I'm blessed by my wife Stephanie, our son Henry (3), and our daughter Name TBD (ETA October 2018). I currently work at Amazon as a senior finance manager for Amazon.



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

### Summer Worship Schedule

#### **TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SUNDAYS** - 10am

Join us in the sanctuary as we praise God through traditional liturgy. Featuring the varied music gifts of our congregation, each week will bring special music from varied instruments & voices, and people of all ages.

#### **INFORMAL WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS** - 6pm

Bring your picnic dinner at 6:00 p.m., and stay for worship with our Informal Ensemble starting at 6:30 p.m. We will be celebrating communion every week, and have the same sermon & readings from our pastors Kathy & Gretchen from Sunday. Family friendly and fun! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall, with doors and windows open!

## DOES THE BIBLE REALLY SAY THAT?!

*A summer sermon series*

### **Wednesday, August 1:** *What does the Bible say about healing?*

Intern Katlin Dickinson-Laurence preaching.

### **August 5 and 8:** *I could be stoned for what?!? Drastic and odd laws*

"...You must not spare the life of any living thing... A woman must not dress like a man... or a man like a woman...this is detestable to Yahweh your God. "

Deuteronomy 20, 22.

### **August 12 and 15:** *Jesus' myth-busting parables*

Make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth..... 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me..I am in agony in these flames.

Luke 16.

### **August 19 and 22:** *Give It Up*

"You have been lying to...God"...Ananias fell down dead... Sapphira dropped dead at Peter's feet.

Acts 5.

### **August 26 and 29:** *Sin Lists: Are they a thing?*

...laws are for criminals and the...sacrilegious and the godless; people who kill their fathers or mothers...for the promiscuous, homosexuals, kidnappers...everything else...contrary to...the gospel that was entrusted to me. I Timothy 1

### **September 2:** (NO WEDNESDAY WORSHIP) *Why does God allow suffering?*

I make well-being and I create calamity. I am the Lord who does all these things.

Isaiah 45:7.



## Summer Sundays: Special Music

We are blessed to enjoy the gifts of wonderful musicians at both of our worship services at Our Redeemer's. I'm lucky to work with singers and instrumentalists in our traditional worship setting. During the program year (mid-September to mid-June), our Choir sings each week at 11:00 a.m., and our Youth Choir and Jr. Choir sing about once each month at both 9:00 and 11:00. I want to publicly thank all three choirs for sharing their time and talents so faithfully and for the wide array of music they bring to worship.

In the summertime, we move to two services – Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. (traditional) and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. (informal.) Special music is offered on Sundays by talented instrumentalists and vocalists from our congregation, as well as guest musicians. Here's a list of special music opportunities you can enjoy these summer Sundays:

**August 5** – Pastor Gretchen – voice and guitar

**August 12** – Stephanie Dykes – voice

**August 19** – Carey Rayburn and Toby Penk – trumpet duets

**August 26** – Jonath Ochs – violin, Colin McBride – piano

*Note: Welcoming Wisdom, a program honoring our members 80 years of age and older, follows worship on August 26 and includes a Hymn Sing!*

**September 2** – Joanna Elizondo – flute, Fred Flickinger – octave violin

**September 9** – Carey Rayburn – trumpet, Jake Sele – trombone and tuba

*Note: September 9 is also Fall Kick-off for the program year*

**September 16** – We return to two Sunday services, and the Choir is back at 11:00 a.m.!

Karen Lee, Traditional Worship and Music Director

## Centering Prayer

*Thursdays, 6-6:30pm*

*A quiet pause in your busy life.*

*No experience necessary.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



## LIVING GENEROUSLY

*"Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment."*  
-Matthew 10:8

As Christians and Lutherans, we are called to be generous with the gifts God has given us. In giving we take part in the flow of God's love.

**THANK YOU** ~ to just a few of the folks who've given of themselves above and beyond in the last couple months:

- Youth leaders: Shelbe Kukowski and Ryan Brady who went to the National Youth Gathering in Houston for a week. Kelly Piper, who will accompany our confirmands to Camp Lutherhaven in Idaho.
- Our traditional choir, concluding their weekly offering of music and inspiration for the program year.
- Our informal music ensemble, playing weekly on through the summer on Wednesday nights.
- ALL our VBS Camptastic volunteers, many of whom welcomed, herded and taught kids from our neighborhood and church for 6+ hours each day for a week. Special thanks to Julie Vannoy who ALSO worked on set up for 3 full days.
- Our church council, gathering for an overnight planning retreat.

**And you. Yes! You.** Our congregation's generosity IS expanding significantly as our year-end report financial report shows.

Even so, this is NOT anywhere close to an exhaustive list of all people joyfully do and give to make our church and God's light stronger and

brighter. The saying is: 20% of the people do 80% of the work. But a review of our members shows that only 10% of people who worship at least Easter and Christmas ONLY worship.

On behalf of all who are blessed by what God is doing through us, THANK YOU!!!

### Finding Your Niche at Our Redeemer's

Are you...

- finishing your education
- beginning your career or entering the workforce
- interested in connecting with others in a similar life stage
- curious about what gifts and talents you have to offer the church
- desiring to put your passions and skills to service for the community of Ballard and Our Redeemers

If this describes you, we'd like to hear from you! Please contact Stephanie Fowler or Emilie Purvine. We're starting to organize a conversation around these topics and want to make sure everyone is included.

Stephanie Fowler: [Stephanief@outlook.com](mailto:Stephanief@outlook.com), 253-226-3875 (texting is best)  
Emilie Purvine: [emiliepurvine@gmail.com](mailto:emiliepurvine@gmail.com), 608-347-9591 (texting is best)

*A special invite to 20-35 year olds!*



## FAITH FORMATION

### Young Families Group: Save the Date!

*Saturday, September 15 ~ 9:30am*

Our pastors will host a baptism class for any interested families and people from 9:30am - 11am at church. More information will be forthcoming! This class is open to all people interested in being baptized, baptizing their children, or learning more about meaning of baptism.



### VBS was a CAMPTASTIC SUCCESS!

Thank you to the 48 campers who participated 7 youth leaders, 14 counselors and teachers, six decorators, and countless supporters who made our week a success! Kids had the opportunity to learn about all the ways God loves us! The weather was fantastic, and piles of fun were had. Children participated in music, crafts, games, story time, and science lab. Each day had a separate focus: God lights our path, God made us good, With God, nothing is impossible, and God wants our hearts! Let's do it again next year!



Thank you to everyone who helped welcome Steven Rystrom back from his year of service in Hungary! Steven is a gift to us, and a great example of living selflessly. Welcome back Steven, we have missed you so!



### Theology on Tap on Break!

Theology on Tap is taking a break for the month of August. See you next month!





## National Youth Gathering

*by: Bishop Kirby Unti*

It was my joy to attend the National Youth Gathering with 276 young people and adult leaders from Northwest Washington. We gathered under the theme: THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING. What changes everything? Discovering the love, grace, and hope that has come into the world in the name of Jesus. Thirty-one thousand students, all in brightly colored t-shirts bearing the gathering logo, took Houston by storm. Our first day was our synod congregations' Service Learning Day. I joined up with students from a few of our congregations and folks from a couple other synods in the Midwest. We were sent to a local Houston park where we spent time on three projects: reclaiming a sand volleyball court that had been invaded by deeply rooted weeds; gathering up trash around the park; and sweeping out all the picnic shelters.

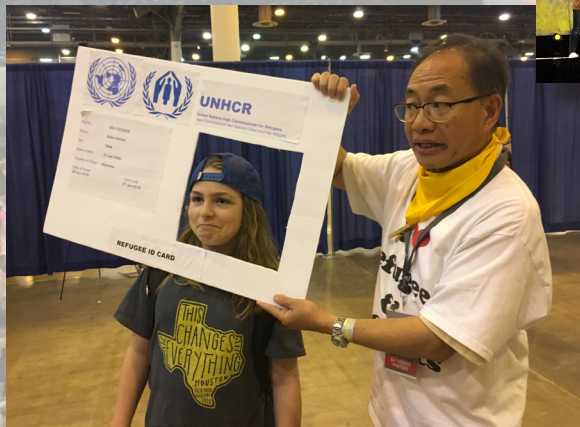
Our second day was spent in the Interactive Learning Center – which had activities to appeal to every young person's interests – inviting our students to: "encounter God through a variety of learning styles and sensory experiences." You could do everything from building a picnic

table, riding bumper cars, sailing on a zip line, participating in a coloring book prayer exercise, learning active Bible Story tell to chilling in Hammock Village. (You can find out more about these interactive learning stations here: [www.elca.org/YouthGathering/details/interactive-learning](http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/details/interactive-learning).)

Day Three was our Synod Day. It was a day to spend time in scripture and to explore how God sends to us messengers who are, more times than not, strangers. We unpacked the story of the disciples on the Road to Emmaus where they discovered the stranger to be none other than Jesus. We asked the question how is Jesus showing up as stranger in our world? Every evening we gathered in the NRG Stadium for music and inspirational speakers. Many of the kids will tell you the speakers were the best part of the event. They understood the challenges facing our young people and knew how to relate to them. There were, shouts, tears and many standing ovations.

I must tell you what impressed me most was the young people themselves. I told our synod youth they made me so proud to be their Bishop. I was deeply moved by their deep desire for justice, their care for their neighbors, and their ability to articulate the kind of world they want to see. The Holy Spirit is indeed moving among the young people of this church. Their behavior is to be applauded. I spoke to police officers, Metro employees, bell hops and complete strangers who commented on how wonderful our young people were. It was powerful for me to witness how they cared for one another. They worked hard to see that no one was left out and comforted those kids who were having a hard time being away from home or facing the realities of what is happening in their own lives. I was moved by how comfortable and committed they are to inclusiveness. I left Houston with a renewed sense of hope for the church knowing God is forming a new generation of disciples who are well-fit to be the church now and into the future.









## Wednesday Morning Bible Study Resumes on September 12, 2018

by: Carolyn Swanson

**Title of Course: Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation (from Great Courses)**

**Sources: The Word and DVD with Professor Phillip Cary, Eastern University**

Something about Prof. Cary: In his words: "I'm a member of an Anglican church. My favorite theologian is Martin Luther, but I'm not exactly a Lutheran. I've just read a whole lot of Luther and think he's understood something terribly important and beautiful about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What Luther's theology has in common with Anglicanism is a tendency to find God in Word and Sacrament—in the external means of grace by which our Lord Jesus Christ gives himself to us".

Something about Luther: He was only one man—a humble monk and Bible professor—yet he sparked a religious rebellion that changed the course of history. What made his theology so explosive in 16th-century Europe? And how should we think of him: hero or heretic, rebel or tormented soul? Martin Luther is so interesting to study, Professor Phillip Cary

believes, because he is so controversial. In fact, Luther may be more interesting to study today because the controversy surrounding him is more complicated—less black-and-white—than when he was alive.

### **What's Different About this Course on Luther:**

This course is not intended to leave you with a neutral impression of Luther. Professor Cary presents Luther as a multifaceted human being, a man with extraordinary virtues and profound flaws. You will meet an inspiring religious thinker who presented the Christian Gospel as a message of comfort, joy, and freedom; as great good news for sinners and God's loving promise of salvation. And you will encounter a leader whose unswerving certainty about his doctrines led him to launch vicious attacks against those with whom he disagreed most infamously and malevolently—the Jews.

Instead of defining Christ by our experiences (which is enough to make any sensible person anxious) we will define our lives by looking at what the Gospel tells us about Christ. So that on Christmas Day we can come to Bethlehem and find a tender maiden with a baby on her lap and say, "Mother, this baby is mine also." Or as Thomas puts it when he places his hands on the wounds of Jesus. "My Lord, and my God".





*Idriss Mosque  
and  
The Islamic Center of Washington*



Are hosting the

**17th**

**Annual BBQ**

You , your family and your guests are invited to attend. **We will be serving BBQ sandwiches along with vegetarian options**

**Telephone: 206-363-3013**

**Date: Sunday August 12, 2018**

**Time: 2:00 PM**

1420 N E Northgate Way

Seattle, WA 98125

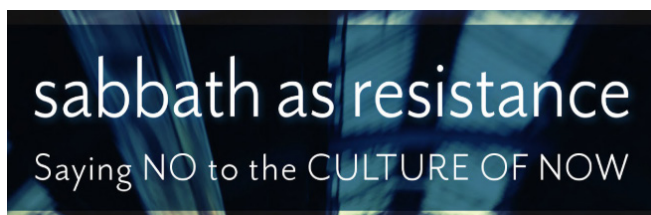
15th Avenue NE and Northgate Way



Sponsored by  
The Islamic Center of Washington



## SOCIAL JUSTICE / EARTHCARE



### **Social Justice Reading Group: Sabbath as Resistance, Saying No to the Culture of Now**

*Thursday, August 9th ~ 7pm*

The Social Justice Reading Group is starting a new book: *Sabbath as Resistance, Saying No to the Culture of Now* by Walter Brueggemann. About the Sabbath as Resistance:

Discussions about the Sabbath often center around moralistic laws and arguments over whether a person should be able to play cards or purchase liquor on Sundays. In this volume, popular author Walter Brueggemann writes that the Sabbath is not simply about keeping rules but rather about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society. Importantly, Brueggemann speaks to a 24/7 society of consumption, a society in which we live to achieve, accomplish, perform, and possess. We want more, own more, use more, eat more, and drink more. Keeping the Sabbath allows us to break this restless cycle and focus on what is truly important: God, other people, all life. Brueggemann offers a transformative vision of the wholeness God intends, giving world-weary Christians a glimpse of a more fulfilling and simpler life through Sabbath observance.

While you're always welcome to join in these discussion regardless of if you've attended in the past or regardless even if you've read the book, the start of a new book is always a nice time to jump in.

### **Reflections on Roadmap to Reconciliation**

Social Justice Reading Group participants reflect on *Roadmap to Reconciliation* by Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil:

*I stuck with this reading group because the discussions were lively and the topic of justice is a burden to me--mainly because I see so little of it. The book we read took justice further than just talking about it. Details of how to cause change were enlightening, but not easy, as we found out, to act upon. The Road to Reconciliation challenged us to make decisions to either stay safe and keep things the same and hope for the best, or come to understand that as a church, staying safe is very risky. Should we be a little bolder in living out God's love? Can we made headway in understanding the roadblocks and crossing the barriers--barriers we make or society makes or even churches make? I don't know about you, but I am really at a loss as to effective ways to accomplish reconciliation. Whether we think it's a doable thing for us or not, we need to discuss it--and we did.*

*As for action--we aren't there yet. Do we even know what kind of reconciliation we want? Do we, as a church want to reconcile anything? Our main emphasis in the group was to think about justice for the black community. To be reconciled to God in Christ is, of course, our first mission and I think we all agree on that. Harder by far to touch on certain opinions with which we disagree. For a personal note, I want agreement to at least fear for the loss of our country to a dictator. For me, all the signs are there. I think about the silent Lutherans in Germany. We're not ready though, are we? We call it politics and that's a dirty word in the church, and rightly so, but what about morality, lies, cruelty, prejudice, hatred? Isn't that a God issue? Thanks Cara and Katlin for giving us this opportunity. I'm looking forward to the next book. -Carolyn Swason*





# Roadmap to Reconciliation

## Moving Communities into Unity, Wholeness and Justice

*I began participating in this reading group late. There had been many things interfering with getting there, as there always are in our busy lives. What I enjoyed about the group was the laid back yet thought provoking discussions we had. The book was theoretical and was tying theory to action. The question often asked by group members, was what are we doing as a group and as a congregation to inspire social justice. I'm not sure we had definitive answers but it was a starting point. – Pamela Altman*

*For me, the social justice reading group isn't so much about the book than it is about the people and conversations. I'm one that didn't always get time to read the chapter before each meeting, but the group helped me understand and I was always included in the conversation. The topics covered in Roadmap to Reconciliation are important for the times we're living in, but difficult to live out. Although we don't come to a plan of action during the group discussion, it's nice to know that others are wrestling with the same issues.  
– Emilie Purvine*

*I am so grateful to everyone who has participated in the Reading Group the last few months. I am inspired by Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil's words about the process of overcoming injustices that occur along racial and ethnicity lines and moving towards reconciliation (a word she does not use lightly). I am also moved by the vulnerable reflections shared by my fellow reading group participants the past few months. We shared ways that we are personally touched and moved by Dr. McNeil's book and ways it will impact us as we move forward. Mostly all throughout Dr. McNeil's book and our reading group discussions I was personally reminded of the ways God loves each of us equally – we humans were all made in God's image after all – and the work of reconciliation and justice is life-long.  
–Cara Kiggins*





## Feed the Hungry: Ballard Sunday Dinner

*Sunday, August 19th ~ 5pm  
Ballard First Lutheran Basement*

One Ballard Sunday Dinner volunteer reflects: "I believe every person has the right to eat healthy food. Jesus fed people who were hungry. When I eat, I give thanks to God. Everyone should have that option. I helped one time so far at the Ballard Sunday Dinner. I met such friendly, and good-natured people who were also helping. Washing dishes was a fun experience."

Come to eat with your neighbors, and/or come to volunteer and prepare and serve food for the hungry in our community – all are welcome!

Volunteer shifts available include:

- 2pm-6pm – Cook team preparing food under the guidance of the Lead
- 4pm-6pm – Set up tables and chairs and serve
- 4pm-6pm – Greet guests as they arrive and direct to the meal
- 5:30pm-7pm – Serve and join the Clean Up Crew

Sign up online: [www.tinyurl.com/ballardsundaydinner](http://www.tinyurl.com/ballardsundaydinner)



## Diaper Drive Ongoing

Although the diapers and equipment have been delivered to Westside Baby for 2018, there will be an ongoing donation drive to support this non-profit which distributes diapers and equipment to families in need. Consider putting a check in the offering plate or mailing to Our Redeemers with "Diaper Drive" on the memo line. Donations may also be made using SAFE Giving by Text and using the category "Diaper." Thank you for your generosity toward the children and families who need these services. There will be a summary of donations in the September Visitor.



## Guide Our Redeemer's Social Justice Ministries & Vote on Benevolence Recipients

*Sun. August 12th ~ 11:30am*

Lend your voice and vision to guide Our Redeemer's Social Justice Ministries.

On the agenda:

- Paper Ballot Voting for Benevolence Recipients
- Updates on current Social Justice Ministries
- Planning for future Social Justice action in line with Our Redeemer's strategic direction

All are welcome to this quarterly meeting regardless of if you've participated in the past. Contact Cara ([outreach@ourredeemers.net](mailto:outreach@ourredeemers.net)) for more information or just show up!

## Where Does Our Giving Go? You Decide!

### BACKGROUND:

Our Redeemer's tithes 10% of all unrestricted giving by giving 3% to organizations and efforts supporting social justice in our local and global community (Benevolence Funds), and 7% to the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). Of the seven percent (7%) given to the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA, some of it is used for ministries within the Synod, and much of it is given to the ELCA national organization for ministries around the world.

Three percent (3%) of all unrestricted giving to Our Redeemer's is given back (Benevolence Funds) to organizations and efforts supporting social justice in our local and global community.

### YOUR ROLE:

You can bring worthwhile Benevolence recipient organizations to light! If you know of an organization or cause that is enacting social justice in our local or global community, please fill out a submission form. That organization can then be considered as a potential recipient of Benevolence Funds at the next Social Justice Meeting.

### DECISION MAKING DETAILS:

Benevolence Recipient Submission Forms are distributed via email to the Social Justice Meeting participants at least two weeks before the next meeting (please see both the forms and the next meeting date posted on the bulletin board). After a quick question and answer at the Social Justice meeting, recipients are decided on by a paper vote and any members present may vote.

All are welcome to attend this meeting and help make the decisions, even if it's your first meeting. If you have submitted an organization for consideration, it's especially important that you attend the meeting to potentially help answer questions and to vote!



## Purchase School Kit Supplies for Lutheran World Relief!

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. School Kits contain the essential supplies to help children – and in some cases, adults – continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities. As back to school sales start popping up in stores over the summer, take advantage and purchase the following needed items for school kits. We can only make as many kits as the least number of items we have – so purchase many!

- Notebooks – 70 sheets (280–300 sheets total) of wide or college ruled paper approximately 8" x 10.5", no loose leaf paper
- 30 centimeter rulers, or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- Pencil sharpeners
- Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- Boxes of 16 or 24 crayons
- 2 ½" erasers



## Road2Housing Is Up and Running!

The Road to Housing Taskforce is pleased to announce we have established a partnership with a new case management partner – the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle! Urban League will be identifying potential guests, completing intake procedures and background checks, and providing case management while guests are parking in our lot. Our Redeemer's will continue to provide safe parking and access to a bathroom, shower, laundry, and kitchenette. We look forward to developing a strong partnership providing welcome, stability, and support to people living in their vehicles. To learn more about Urban League visit <https://www.urbanleague.org/housing/>

If you have any questions please contact the taskforce: Tom Bernard, Cara Kiggins, Rebecca Butler, Margaret Wetter, and Pastor Kathy.





## COMMUNITY

Atul Gawande



Being Mortal

### Madonnas Book Group

*Sunday, August 26 ~ 4pm*

Our next gathering will be on Sunday, August 26th @ 4pm at Margaret Wetter's home. We will discuss Being Mortal by Atul Gawande. Meet at the church parking lot at 3:30pm to carpool.



### Men's Breakfast

*Wednesday, August 1 ~ 7am*

*Patty's Egg Nest*

*9749 Holman Rd NW*

Refresh your spirit with good company, coffee, and pancakes at Patty's Egg Nest.



### Life Masters (Seniors): Progressive Potluck

*Thursday, August 23*

*6:30pm*

What an easy and enjoyable way to get to know other folks! Start at Sandy Boxes home for appetizers, progress to Sally Parker-Henderson and Doug Starups for salads, then to Chuck and Marilyn McKenzie's for the main dish, and end with a sunset as hosts of Jim Arnold and Anita Lewis who have reserved space at Sunset West.

Other details:

- Look for an evite in your email inbox soon, if you haven't already received it!
- Look for sign ups for what you'll bring in the fellowship hall.
- Carpooling will be available.
- Life Masters are sponsoring this for folks 55+.



**Sunday, August 26**

**11:30 a.m.** (after 10:00 a.m. service) in the Fellowship Hall

**Food – quiche, stratas, salads, rolls, cookies**

**Wisdom shared by the 80+ Folks (57 members over 80!)**

**They/You will have a chance to respond to one of five questions, included in the invitations, mailed the week of August 1.**

**Do you need a ride?**

**Call Office 206-783-7900 or Sandy Box 206-789-2694**



**Hymn Sing : Favorites Through the Decades**

**all ages welcome**





## Member Highlight:

### Nick Brown

#### 1. What made you decide to attend Our Redeemer's?

My wife and I live in the area and we knew that it was an inclusive congregation.

#### 2. Where are you from? What church did you attend growing up?

I'm from Camano Island, and I grew up in Camano Chapel.

#### 3. What are your interests/hobbies?

I love hiking and biking, and watching baseball.

#### 4. Something you look forward to this coming year?

My wife and I are taking a trip back east for a wedding and we'll visit Acadia National Park.

#### 5. Favorite thing about coming to church?

Listening to Pastor Kathy and singing with Pastor Gretchen.

*Dear Our Redeemer's,*

*Thank you so very much for the love and kindness you have shown to us during our too-short involvement with the church and Young Families Group. We have never before experienced such a welcoming, thoughtful, and though-provoking (and action-provoking!) church. We are sad to say goodbye, but we are excited for new adventures in our new lives in Colorado. Thank you for loving, challenging, comforting, and praying for us!*

*Love,*

*Christine Biermann, James Baginski,  
Charlie and Caroline*

*Hello Kathy and Holden Village  
"Pilgrims",*

*I am so grateful to have shared my first trip to Holden Village with such a nice group of people! You make Ann and I feel very welcome and included. For me, being part of your group added to the experience. I hope some day to attend a worship service at your church and break bread with your community.*

*May God Bless you and your community!*

*Peace,*

*Pamela Itzin*



## MILESTONES

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### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Fred Nelson	13	Robert Overlie	24	Rebecca Butler
2	Shirley Anderson	14	Vanessa Gable	24	Mercer Lenihan
2	Betty Goble	14	Niels Running	25	Christine Huffstetter
3	Theresa Forssen	14	Kelsey Wagner	26	Bob Dunn
3	Keira Smith	15	Paul Oldenkamp	26	Chris Glover
4	Stephanie Dykes	16	John Kaimmer	26	Sue Johnson
4	Shirley Smith	18	Lee Cayton	28	Linda Overlie
5	Damon Knight	18	Carl Christenson	29	Cindy Ege
5	Tyler Robbins-Linford	18	Doug Dixon	29	Stephanie Running
6	Sue Schoolcraft	18	Keith Hansen	30	Sharon Ohm
7	Jennifer Gleeson	20	Amy Hammett	30	Harley Oswald
9	Lynn Henderson	20	John Somm	30	John Wilson
10	Jean Kippen	21	Holly Gundacker	31	Anna Deturk
10	Ann McIntyre	22	Kea Osborn		
10	Anna Ojendyk	23	Audrey Gundacker		

### THANKS BE TO GOD FOR...

*Those turning 90+:*

Pete Paulson, who was born on August 31, 1926, is turning 92 years old!

### 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.

SUNDAYS: 10am - Traditional Worship		WEDNESDAYS: 630pm - Informal Worship		AUGUST 2018		ourredeemers.net/calendar	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			<b>1</b> Confirmation Camp 7am Men's Breakfast 10am Staff Meeting 740pm Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>2</b> Confirmation Camp 345pm Staff Meeting 6pm Centering Prayer	<b>3</b> Confirmation Camp 130pm Folders	<b>4</b> 9am Traditional Worship Team Meeting	
	<b>6</b> 2pm Caring Community Team	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9am Executive Committee 10am Staff Meeting 740pm Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 6pm Centering Prayer 7pm Social Justice Reading Group	<b>10</b> 12pm Life Masters Planning Meeting 130pm Folders	<b>11</b>	
<b>12</b> 1130am Social Justice Quarterly Meeting 2pm Mosque BBQ	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7pm Generosity Team	<b>15</b> 10am Staff Meeting 740pm Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 6pm Centering Prayer	<b>17</b> 130pm Folders	<b>18</b>	
<b>19</b> 5pm Ballard Sunday Dinner	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10am Staff Meeting 740pm Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 6pm Centering Prayer 630pm LifeMasters Progressive Dinner	<b>24</b> Council Retreat 130pm Folders	<b>25</b> Council Retreat	
<b>26</b> 1130am Welcoming Wisdom Lunch & Hymn Sing 4pm Madonnas Book Group	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7pm Theology on Tap	<b>29</b> 10am Staff Meeting 740pm Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 6pm Centering Prayer	<b>31</b> 130pm Folders		





2400 NW 85th Street  
Seattle, WA 98117  
[www.ourredeemers.net](http://www.ourredeemers.net)  
206-783-7900

**NON-PROFIT ORG**  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
**SEATTLE, WA**  
**PERMIT #587**

return service requested

**WEEKLY WORSHIP**

Sunday - 10 a.m. (Traditional)  
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. (Informal)  
Thursday - 6 p.m. (Centering Prayer)

# SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sundays ~ 10am (traditional)**

**Wednesdays ~ 6:30pm (informal)**