DECEMBER 2016

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

The Visitor

A COMMUNITY IN THE MODEL OF CHRIST

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COVER: Like a candle in darkness, we are drawn to the promise of God during this holy season of Advent.
INSIDE COVER: "Congregation" applauds confirmands Nic Glover, Dara Schoolcraft, and Genevieve Knight.

Our community, our calling.

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

- Katherine Hawks, Pastor
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor
- Karen Lee, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship & Music Director
- Don Boelter, Parish Administrator
- Nancy Oldenkamp, Office Assistant
- Jonath Ochs, Communications Director
- Hannah Wetter, Nursery Care Provider

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FROM THE PASTOR

I write this on November 11, which is:

- Veterans' Days
- 3 days after the election
- 2 days before we offer our Build the Vision…Share the Vision! pledges
- 2 weeks before Thanksgiving and our community meal
- 2 ½ weeks before we enter Advent

What a wild mix:

- of emotions
- of values
- of traditions
- of needs
- of memories
- of scenarios of the future

When I woke up Wednesday morning after the election, I lay there thinking: What does this MEAN? My first inclination was to try to make sense of it. To try to get a handle on it.

And I continue to think we all have responsibility to pay attention, to analyze, to consider, so we can speak and act as citizens for the common good. And I accept (and usually celebrate!) that we have different understandings of how to achieve the common good.

BUT, even greater than our responsibility within the body politic, we have a calling. We are called to work and pray for God's new day, when justice will reign, when people will live in caring community and when God's law of love will be written on all hearts.

And our calling does not change. This was our calling the day before the election. This was our calling as we voted. This calling is why we pledge our financial, time and prayer support to Our Redeemer's ministries and vision. This is our calling as we share Thanksgiving dinner with homeless veterans. This calling gives our ohso blessed lives meaning.

This calling anchors us -- in God and God's promise -- no matter what wild mix swirls around us and in us.

And thankfully, Advent comes right when we need it, giving us a way to drop anchor, to open our ears to the still small voice within our hearts, and reconnect to God's deep and abiding hope, which gets all too easily buried under the garish display and materialistic hyperness of the secular culture around us.

Advent invites us to **awe**. One comes who is God-in-our midst. The earth is not ours, it belongs to the One who comes. Our lives stand in the bright light of God's all-knowing gaze.

Advent invites us to **contrition**. To be rightly prepared for the coming One, we need to pray honestly and fervently, "Have mercy on me, O God, for what I have done and left undone, and for what we collectively have done and left undone."

Advent invites us to spaces of **silence**, instead of our rushing, so the Word can find us and the Spirit can work in our hearts.

Advent invites us to **anticipate**. There is a longing in our hearts that cannot be filled with even the sweetest elements of our life. It is a longing that comes from knowing we were made to be God's children, trusting God's promise that a great light has come and will come to people who have dwelt in darkness.

This Advent, in the wild mix of these times, may the calling of Christ focus our lives and may the promise of God renew our hearts,,

Katherine H. Hawks

Pastor Kathy

"This calling anchors us -- in God and God's promise -- no matter what wild mix swirls around us and in us. "

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

ADVENT AT OUR REDEEMER'S

This year Our Redeemer's theme during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany will be PROMISE. All we do, all we pray, all we give, all we celebrate will be gathered up into that one word: Promise.

Advent and Christmas carols, scriptures and stories will remind us of God's utter faithfulness to God's promises in the past. The same carols and stories will ground us in the confident hope of God's faithfulness to God's promise to bring about a new day.

During Advent our Sunday readings will focus on how the people who first received the good news of Jesus' birth, initially reacted to the announcement that God's promise would be fulfilled, and Immanuel, God-with-us was coming.

Advent I, November 27:
Jesus' uncle, Zechariah's fear.

Advent II, December 4:
Joseph's confusion.

Advent III, December 11:
Mary's doubt.

Advent IV, December 18 (9AM):
The shepherds' curiosity.

Thankfully, God meets us wherever we are, both physically and emotionally. What situations and emotions do you find yourself in this Advent? How do you hear the good news of God's promise and presence? Can you hear the tidings of comfort and joy for you? For the world?

Caroling

DECEMBER 4 @ 12PM

After 11:00 worship on Sunday December 4, we will go caroling to a number of homes of shut-in members of our church. Pastor Gretchen will bring her guitar, and you bring your voices and a festive hat. Please sign up so we can make sure we have enough rides. Kids of all ages (and adults!) are invited. Afterward, we'll come back for hot cocoa.

Lucia Fest

DECEMBER 11 @ 5-7PM

YOU are invited to join in the fun of an Our Redeemer's tradition! Each year the youth of Our Redeemers bring the story of Sancta Lucia to life and continue a treasured tradition.

This is a beloved tradition in Sweden and Our Redeemers is delighted to bring Lucia's message of light and charity to the community with a traditional tåg (procession), music, food, dancing and costumes. You'll learn a little Swedish and have a great time bringing holiday cheer to our community.

DO YOU LIKE TO BAKE?

Do you have a favorite holiday recipe? We need 100 dozen cookies for our Lucia Fest on December 11th! We would appreciate all goodies to be delivered by Sunday morning, December 11th. *Thank you very much!*

Christmas Pageant

DECEMBER 18 @ 11AM

"The Best Story: An Imperfect Christmas Pageant"
Calling all sheep, angels, shepherds, and wise men! The Our Redeemer's Christmas pageant is coming up soon, and we'd love to have you play a part. Dress rehearsal is on Saturday Dec. 17th @9am. Join us for a fun, memorable time. It's sure to be photographable! :)

Blue Christmas Service

DECEMBER 22 @ 7PM

For many people, the holidays are not merry and bright, but a difficult time. Maybe you have lost someone you love, or are finding all the commercialism exhausting and shallow. If so, join us on the longest night of the year for 'Blue Christmas,' a service of remembrance and hope.

Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service

DECEMBER 24 @ 4PM

Join us for a kid-focused Christmas Eve worship service on the 24th at 4pm. "The ABC's of Christmas" will tell the Christmas story, introduce the key characters, and invite you to sing a few verses of your favorite carols. (A few families are still needed to help! Please contact Pastor Gretchen if you are willing to have a speaking part - adults and children! pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net)

The Giving Tree is Here!

Every year, Our Redeemer's hosts a "Giving Tree" in our narthex, with gifts that children and mothers from Mary's Place, as well as our own Road2Housing residents have requested. It's an excellent thing, to share generosity during the holidays. If you have questions or concerns, contact Paula Hlastala.
Happy shopping!

BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION!

VISION-ALIGNED BUILDING UPDATE

On September 29, the VAB Team met with our architects, atelierjones llc, to present desired revisions to the original concept plans, based on congregational feedback and further reflection by the team, and to talk about the possibility of starting work on the Fellowship Hall as early as January of next year. Based on these conversations, Susan Jones, lead architect, drafted proposal for services for 1) concept design value engineering work ($7,502), and 2) fellowship hall permit submittal ($8,426). The Church Council voted to approve spending for both proposals for services at its October monthly meeting. Atelierjones was directed to prioritize the concept design revisions in order to have new drawings ready to go for the November 5 capital campaign gala event. Attendees at the gala were given the opportunity to check out the revised plans, and ask questions/express thoughts to VAB Team members at stations throughout the church. The revised drawings are currently on display in the narthex and on the fellowship hall bulletin boards.

At its November 15 meeting, the Church Council was updated on revised concept plans, fellowship hall proposal, and early capital campaign results. Consensus of council was that additional opportunities for congregational questions and comments about the revised plans should be made available, as there was limited time at the gala event. Council proposed having "cottage" talks, similar to those held during the last capital campaign. Church staff and council will work with capital campaign consultant Steve Olson to plan and schedule these additional opportunities for congregational input. Our annual congregational meeting will be pushed back to February to give more time for cottage talks prior to a final vote on VAB plans.

The VAB Team is scheduled to meet again in late November to review congregational questions and comments that were recorded by team members at and after the gala event, to discuss their own thoughts on what further revisions may be required, and what the VAB Team's role will be in cottage talks. In the meantime, atelierjones is working on the fellowship hall proposal, which includes the potential for: new paint job, new (carpeted) flooring, repaired windows, shower for Road2Housing guests, bench storage around perimeter of hall, and other potential aesthetic upgrades to the hall.

The Vision-Aligned Building Team is: Jim Arnold, Andrew Brissette, and Don Boelter (Parish Administrator), Pastor Kathy Hawks, Mike Hlastala, Kirsten Malone, Ryan Mertes, Guy Michaelsen. Questions and/or comments can be directed to any team member, or by emailing VAB@ourredeemers.net, or by using the written box in the fellowship hall.

About 100 Enjoy Taste & See Gala for Build the Vision... Share the Vision!

Something close to 100 people attended our "Taste and See" Gala on November 5!

Thanks to Marie Lessard and her amazing crew, the Fellowship Hall was beautiful in candlelight, and with Bob and Karen Carlson's help, the food was amazing. Karin Kajita created ambience with classical, jazz and American Songbook piano offerings. Pastor Gretchen offered a beautiful prayer (see below) and Mike Hlastala reflected on Nelson Miller's leadership in saving Calvary's huge stained glass window, which will now be such a beautiful part of our renovations. Guy Michaelsen eloquently made the case for the impact that visibility and functionality will have on our vibrant life together and the interest of the community around us. Pastor Steve Olson, our capital campaign consultant, spoke of the joy of giving and the project's far-reaching, as we support God's mission in both our annual giving and in Build the Vision...Share the Vision! Pastor Kathy shared a story of a younger adult who has found sanctuary and peace through Our Redeemer's, and of Jesus calling us to be "the light of the world" in our own unique and welcoming way, in the midst of the current anxiety and darkness. And, of course, being Lutheran, we sang a heartfelt hymn.

The newest CONCEPT drawings were available for Vision-Aligned Building Team members to help us all interpret the changes ahead in our building. For many, it was the first chance to really begin to imagine the basics of our building project. Questions, comments and concerns were eagerly shared.

Energy about the plans was positive. The VAB team members noted comments, and also invited members to use the VAB suggestion box and email address to relay their input. The majority of the comments had to do with suggestions for decisions we haven't gotten to yet: furnishings, lights, etc. Input about the concepts will be relayed to the architect and vision-aligned building team.

Two new announcements were made: That eleven households had already pledged $445,000, which with our expected contribution of $300,000 from Calvary Legacy Funds, puts our campaign goal of $1.1 million within reach, and moves us strongly toward our overall project estimate of $2.5.

The second announcement was that thanks to a member's generous contribution of carpeting and paint for the fellowship hall, we will tackle that first -- adding a shower, reconfiguring some storage and generally making it a more pleasant space for everything, but especially for both worship services, when work on the sanctuary makes worship there impossible. We look for that project to begin in January or February 2017.

Our thanks to all who have been working so long and so hard and so well on our building project, on the capital campaign and to make our gala evening the wonderful anticipation it was of all we have to look forward to!

WONDERING WHAT'S GOING ON?

Want to see the monthly church council minutes? Love looking over financial statements?

Contact Don Boelter
Parish Administrator
administrator@ourredeemers.net
206-783-7900, x.107

TASTE & SEE GALA

Gracious God, you are the original gift giver, the original molder of the clay.
We ask you to be among us
As we ask and listen,
As we look and envision,
As we celebrate and pray,
As we live into your calling to be your people,
God, we strive to be radically welcoming in your name
Even as we are challenged about our values, our money, our faith,
Even as we find our faith changing as we age,
Even as we hear the warning cry that "the church is dying",
Still, we strive to embody your grace, love, and forgiveness.
Help us to look to the future with bright eyes, with open hearts, and with hope.
Help us to be filled with reckless optimism that we are hearing you right – God, are we hearing you right? That we are to be building a temple worthy of you: a true sanctuary for the wounded and a hall of praise for these saints and sinners gathered here tonight.
Bless our time. Bless our conversation. Continue to give us your vision of the Kingdom of God, present on earth. Let there be peace, and deep joy in your presence. In Jesus' holy name we pray.
AMEN.

THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER & SLEEPING BAG DISTRIBUTION

Christmas Poinsettias

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES WITH CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS.

Again, this year, we are collectiong donations for poinsettias, which may be given in memory of or to honor a loved one in your life. Donate any amount you wish in the flower envelopes located in the pews (11am service) or on the clipboards (9am service). Donations must be turned into the church office by Sunday,

FAITH FORMATION

Bethel Bible Series

WEDNESDAYS @ 1030AM

The Bethel Bible Series is ongoing on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am. in the library. Contact Carolyn Swanson if you're interested.

Family Mission Trip

JANUARY 14-16

We will be traveling to Camp Lutherwood in Bellingham, staying 2 nights, and doing service projects while we are there. Bring your work gloves and a penchant to have fun! Family means all ages, not just kids. You are invited! Cost is $50/person with a $200 cap for families.

Words to Live By

SUNDAY MORNINGS, BETWEEN SERVICES

Ever listen to the sermon and want to say, "Yes, but….."? Or get distracted by something in one of the Sunday worship Bible readings that you just don't understand? Or that offends you?

The Bible and preaching from it are core to our faith and understanding of God, but that doesn't mean most of us are necessarily familiar with it. Where can you bring your questions, thoughts and curiosity about this "Word" we hear each week?

You can come to the library (most) Sundays 10:20am- 10:50am. Pastor Kathy, Pastor Gretchen, Intern Laura Stembridge or occasionally others, will share insights that didn't make it into their sermons, and invite your questions and other input.

A great chance to grow in your Bible knowledge and your faith! *Try it out!*

VOLUNTEERS always appreciated for Kids' church!

Email Gretchen: *pastor.gretchen@ourredeemer.net*

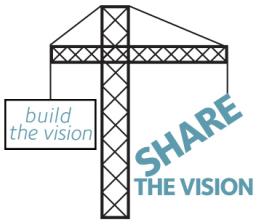
REFORMATION SUNDAY & CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

NIC GLOVER DARA SCHOOLCRAFT, GENEVIEVE KNIGHT AND THE PASTORS

ADULT CHOIR

JUNIOR AND MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR

SUPPORTING OUR MINISTRIES & MISSION



THANKS TO YOUR CONTINUED FAITHFUL GIVING, OUR REDEEMER'S FINANCES ARE ON TRACK

As we envision our vision-aligned building, one of the recurring (and very reasonable) questions has been: *Are our finances strong enough to justify such a project?*

First, perhaps the most important thing to know: Currently we do not have a deficit. We finished the 2015-2016 fiscal year $8000 ahead of expenses, but with a $1796 deficit in the general fund. As of October 31, income is $18,790 ahead of expenses, giving is about 10% ahead of last year, and our general fund is at $17,374. Our income fluctuates greatly month to month, in a mostly predictable pattern, so this increase is likely to increase in November and December, ebb some until Easter. But, thus far, we appear to be in a stable pattern.

Furthermore, due to staffing reconfigurations, our operating budget requirements will be reduced this year by about $25,000, from $492,300 to $467,100, which is $18,000 under our 2014-2015 budget (of $485,744) and $38,000 under last year's budget (of $505,835).

We have had some financial challenges in the past. And three years ago, our congregation voted to add a full-time, experienced associate pastor to enable us to fully accomplish our strategic plan goals. To do this, we agreed to pay 100% of that position Calvary Legacy funds in the first year, reducing the amount from Legacy funds by $20,000 each of the following six years. The congregation also voted to step up by the additional $20,000 amount each year. We projected a necessary 5-6% increase in income every year to meet this and other expected cost increases.

There's no question that our difficulty in filling staff positions in 2015-2016, and the first part of this year, has contributed to being in the black -- although we would likely at holding our own even so. As it is, with giving as steady and generous as we have been blessed to share so far this year, Our Redeemer's should be in a good position to keep moving forward, working the vision and plan God has given us!

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING WITH THE CALVARY LEGACY FUNDS?

Inquiring minds want to know: What have we spent from the proceeds of the sale of the Calvary facility? What do we project to spend, and what is likely to be available for our Build the Vision... Share the Vision building project? Please see below, for the answers to these questions. And if you have further questions, please ask Parish Administrator, Don Boelter. Thanks!

OUR REDEEMER'S STATUS: ANNUAL BUDGET & LEGACY FUNDS

2017-2016 BUDGET

Approved by the congregation: $492,251

Minus Faith Formation Position taken on by Pastor Mertes: $36,106 $456,145

Plus ½ year of Soc. Justice ½ -time position: $11,000 $467,145

PAST LEGACY FUNDS SPENDING ~ 2012 to September 2016

Calvary stained glass windows preservation $3,500

Strategic Plan Process/Consultant $23,700

NOTE: All following expenditures are based on the strategic plan.

Website creation and start up $18,700

Staff: Associate Pastor: *(100% of 9/15-6/16 plus 3 mos. of reduced Legacy contribution for 2016-2017)* $111,858

Communications/Supply Pastors: $4,600 $116,458

Vision-Aligned Building:

Initial Facility Survey and Digitizing Building Plans: $10,200

Preliminary assessment of scope and Presentation: $13.500

Concept Design and Presentation: $18,700

Feasibility Study $10,500 $52,900 ($10,500*) =$42,400

TOTAL SPENT: $204,558

**This expense was covered by a member's gift.*

REMAINING LEGACY FUNDS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016: $636,135

PROJECTED LEGACY FUNDS SPENDING

Revised concept designs $7,500

Fellowship Hall Design, Permit & Finishes Work $8,400

Design/Permit $50,000

Associate Pastor: *10/16 to 6/17: $58,074 + (2017-18) $60,000 + (2018-2019) $30,000 + (2019-2020) $15,000* = $163,074

Communications/Marketing Plan: $40,000 $268,974

IRA Rollover Giving

If you are age 70½ or older, you can give up to $100,000 to Our Redeemer's each year from your individual retirement account free from federal income tax. If you have not taken your required minimum distribution for the year, a charitable rollover can help satisfy that requirement. Talk to your tax professional, then call Don Boelter, our Parish Administrator, to get the details.

Coming Staff Reconfigurations will Strengthen Ministry, Reduce Budget

Our current staff is gifted, committed and working exceptionally well as a team. As they have worked together over this year, each person's strengths and preferences have emerged and as a result, some changes are coming in early 2017.

The biggest change is that Pastor Gretchen will be the coordinator of our faith formation ministries for the first third of life: babies, children, confirmation, high school and young adults -- and will relate to parents. Pastor Gretchen has experience in these ministries, is a mother of two young children herself, and is excited to make this one of her major foci -- along with worship. Obviously, this is a big program, however, we have strong volunteer leadership in nearly all aspects of it, and Pastor Gretchen is already putting things in place to strengthen and vision with the faith formation team going forward.

Another change, is that social justice ministries oversight will shift from Pastor Gretchen to Pastor Kathy. Pastor Kathy will work with a part-time staff person (yet to be hired) who will strengthen our community networking and partnerships, and inspire and engage congregation members. A search team is creating the job description, and we hope to hire someone early next year.

Pastor Kathy will also take on development of small groups, as vision-aligned building planning and capital campaign responsibilities diminish. This was originally part of Pastor Gretchen's responsibilities. Pastor Kathy is looking forward to returning to overseeing adult faith formation and deepening relationships among folks in the church.

But that's not all! One of our strategic plan goals was to expand our communications position from half-time to full-time, so the wider community becomes more aware of who we are and what we are doing. After reflection, instead of adding half of a permanent position to our staff, we plan to engage a marketing firm to help us create a public relations and marketing plan to make the most of the interest our building changes will generate. Jonath Ochs, our current half-time communications specialist will continue to create content, signage, website and social media, and beginning January will do bulletins, announcements, and e-blasts.

Which brings us to our final change. Since Nancy OldenKamp, who has been our Office Coordinator, will be freed up from bulletin responsibilities, her tremendous gifts for hospitality and caring for others can be better used. She will continue to be the first face people see at the front desk when they walk through the front door, but will work to integrate people into the life of our congregation -- administering visitor follow up, tracking people's interests, working on The Journey, and helping people find the small group and/or ministry they can belong to.

So, there you have it. A lot of changes, that all of our staff members are enthusiastic about. The effect on our budget is likely to save us about $25,000.

Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of our staff members for the above and beyond job that they do, day in and day out!

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

BALLARD SUNDAY DINNERS

EVERY THIRD SUNDAY

Ballard Sunday Dinners have started taking off! We feed 60-80 people on the third Sundays of the month at Ballard First Lutheran, in conjunction with 5-6 other churches and organizations in the area. We need volunteers!

If you would like to sign up to help serve, please visit this link at Sign Up Genius. (http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084daea62ea1fe3-ballard)

You'll need a login, but it's easy and simple to find jobs and times.

Also, if you'd like to help fund this operation and defray some of the costs that Ballard First has taken on to host this great venture, you can donate money through crowdrise: https://www.crowdrise.com/ballard-sunday-dinners-for-our-homeless-neighbors.

It says the money goes to Amazing Grace Spiritual Center because they are our fiscal agent. *Any donation is helpful!*

Christmas Gifts that Grow the Church, Fight Hunger, and Transform Lives

Is there is someone among your family or friends who has everything they need? Why not give them the joy of making a huge difference?

ELCA GOOD GIFTS support the mission and global ministry projects of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. There is a whole catalog of projects to choose from: clean water, agriculture, microbusinesses, vaccinations and so much more. Just go to elca.org/goodgifts, or check out the catalog on the table in the church entry.

Sound a little like Our Redeemer's' aims? There's a good reason for that. The ELCA is the national church Our Redeemer's is part of. And 7% of all undesignated gifts you make to Our Redeemer's support the ELCA's excellent global and national work. *Check it out!*

COMMUNITY

MILESTONES

December Birthdays

1	David Kinner
1	Jeffrey Luebbe
1	Valerie Millard
1	Rebecca Nye
2	Holly Campbell
2	Dinah Coble
2	Kyle McBride
3	Patti Nebel
4	Umar Abdullah
4	Hawkeye Grumm
4	Erica Lee
4	Randi Parker
4	Harold Sigurdson
4	Jim Voss
5	Ed Kloth
6	Fred Flickinger
6	Torin Longaker
7	Cheree Chabot
7	Karen Wilson
8	Alexander Nyhus
9	Angeline Dovinh
9	Emily Malone
10	Kjersti Sangrey
11	Patrick Copeland
13	Anne Lewis
13	Craig Perry
14	Sean Brady
16	Ada Marie Brady
16	Colin McBride
19	Natasha Parker
20	Taylor Anderson
20	Nikki McCormick
21	Gracie Osborn
24	Ronda Andrews
24	Jenn Stock
25	Natalie Evidon
26	Julie Lowe
26	Johnna Michaelsen
27	Heidi Osborn
28	Ross Coble
28	Callan Duke
29	Ingrid Taylor
30	JoAnn Gibson

Memorials

Elsie Wishon passed away rather suddenly on October 24. Our prayers are with Bob and her family.

All Saints Sunday

Send *Visitor* submissions to Jonath Ochs at *communications@ourredeemers.net*

Beer and Carols

DECEMBER 13 @ 7-9PM

We will gather at Stone Way Cafe (3510 Stone Way N) to sing carols, imbibe festive beverages, and be merry together! Bring a friend, and let's pack the place!

Explore Our Redeemer's!

DECEMBER 3 @ 930PM

Have you been visiting Our Redeemer's? And perhaps you'd like to know more about something? Or would just like to have a better sense of what happens here and what makes this place tick?

Join us in the library* on Saturday morning, December 3 at 9AM. We'll have some wonderful homemade cinnamon bread, some good coffee and juice, and a chance to meet one another and talk about whatever you'd like to know.

This time coincides with the Lucia Festival rehearsal, so if you have a child who is involved in that, it will be a great way to pass the time. Child care will be available, as well.

Hope you can come!

*Library is through the double doors on the south, off the

RED ENVELOPES

Make a Christmas gift to Our Redeemer's, the community that we love, that brings comfort and joy ~ near and far. You will find Red Envelopes in the pews, on the clipboards, and in the December issue of The Visitor. *Thank you!*

SAVE THE DATE!

FEBRUARY 10

Our Redeemer's 12th Annual Auction!

"Love and Be Loved"

Meet: GENNY ARREDONDO

1. What made you want to join Our Redeemer's?

We had been church hopping for a while and were searching for a church where we felt like we belonged and was making a difference in the community when Adam drove by "Our Redeemers." Our previous church in Vermont had been named "Our Redeemers" so when he came home and told me he had driven by an "Our Redeemers" I chuckled and said "That's funny, maybe God's giving us a subtle message" We attended a service and it didn't take long for us to see that He had sent us a message we couldn't overlook.

2. Where are you from?

I was born in Mexico, but spent much of my childhood in Bellevue. My husband Adam was born in Rhode Island and raised in Vermont. Since meeting, we've lived in California, Vermont and spent 13 months traveling around the world. But Mount Rainier, the Cascades and the Puget Sound keep drawing us back here.

3. What are your interests?

Playing with play do, baseball, playing at the swings at the park, hide & seek...my son Mateo doesn't leave too much time for my own hobbies, but his are pretty fun. Before him (and I'm sure far too soon) I enjoyed traveling, cooking, hiking, and reading.

4. Something you look forward to this coming year?

We're adding a new member to our immediate and the Our Redeemer family! Look out for a new boy from us (as well as circles underneath our eyes) this coming March.

5. Favorite thing about coming to church?

It's been said before, but it's definitely true & worth repeating...The Community. It's rare to find such a warm, welcoming and caring group of folks like those at Our Redeemers.

6. Can you give one (or more) examples of how Our Redeemer's has impacted your life?

The first time I attended the Women's retreat I was feeling rather unhappy with my job and how much time it was taking me away from my family. I not only left rejuvenated, but after listening to the guest speaker talk about being deliberate and the importance of being happy, I got the courage to make the career change I needed. I'm still working the job I landed afterwards and couldn't be more thankful for the words of wisdom I received.

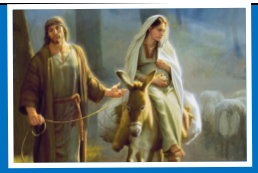
7. Has your involvement at Our Redeemer's changed the way you think about anything? If yes, can you give some examples?

We were looking for a place that lives and breathes the gospel. We feel like we've definitely found that in the members of the congregation and always leave the Sunday 9am service feeling inspired to do more for others. I love all the clothes, food, and service drives community members and the pastors lead.

8. Anything else you would like us to know about you?

I'd love to meet more folks from Our Redeemers so if we haven't met, please introduce yourself! One more thing...I snort audibly when I laugh really hard :)

our redeemer's LUTHERAN·BALLARD



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Centering Prayer (Sanctuary) 7:00pm ~ Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	2 1:30pm Folders (Library)	3 9:00am Traditional Worship Team **9:00-11:00am Luciafest Rehearsal** **3:00pm Bell Choir**
4 **2nd Sunday of Advent** 8:30am Youth Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Informal Worship/Kids' Church 10:20-10:50 Words to Live By (Lib) 11:00am Traditional Worship **12:30pm High School Caroling** **3:00pm Norwegian Ladies Chorus Concert (Sanctuary)**	5 	6	7 **7:00am Men's Breakfast (Pancake House)** 10:30am Bible Study *6:00pm Youth Choir 6:30pm Jr. Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir	8 10:00am Staff Meeting (Library) 6:00pm Centering Prayer (Sanctuary) 7:00pm ~ Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal	9 1:30pm Folders (Library)	10 9:00am Finance Team **9:00-11:00am Luciafest Rehearsal** **3:00pm Hand Bell & Orchestra Rehearsal**
11 **3rd Sunday of Advent** **FOOD BANK SUNDAY** 8:30am Youth Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Informal Worship/Kids' Church 10:20-10:50 Words to Live By (Lib) 11:00am Traditional Worship **5:00-7:00pm Luciafest (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall)**	12 	13 	14 9:00am Executive Mtg. 10:30am Bible Study *6:00pm Youth Choir 6:30pm Jr. Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir	15 9:00am Road2Housing 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00p Centering Prayer (Sanctuary) 7:00pm ~ Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal	16 1:30pm ~ Folders (Library)	17 **9:00-11:00am Pageant Rehearsal** **3:00pm Hand Bell & Orchestra Rehearsal**
18 **4th Sunday of advent** 8:30am Youth Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Informal Worship/Kids' Church 10:20-10:50 Words to Live By (Lib) **11:00am Christmas Pageant** **5:00pm Ballard Sunday Dinner at Ballard First**	19 **SPECIAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL 6:00pm** 	20 6:30pm Church Council Bible Study and Meeting (Library)	21 10:30am Bible Study *6:00pm Youth Choir 6:30pm Jr. Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir	22 **Blue Christmas 7:00pm Sanctuary**	23 1:30pm ~ Folders (Library) 7:00pm Youth Bulletin Folding Party (Library)	24 **4:30pm Christmas Eve Family Service** **10:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**
25 **One Worship Service 10:00am (Sanctuary** **Lessons and Carols**	26 **OFFICE CLOSED** **9:00am Quilters**	27 **OFFICE CLOSED**	28 No Bible Study NO CHOIR REHEARSALS	29 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00p Centering Prayer 7:00pm ~ Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal	30 (Library)	31 **Happy New Year**

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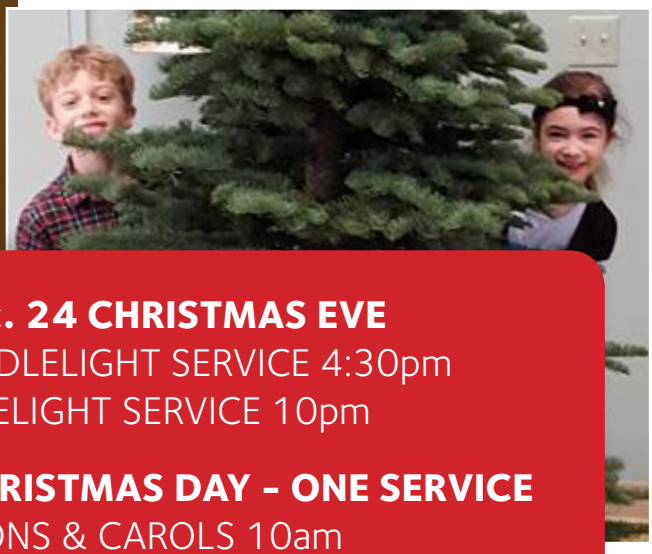
WEEKLY SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Kids' Church at 9 a.m.
Compline 8 p.m. on the 2nd Sunday of the month.



Sat, Dec. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 4:30pm
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 10pm

Sun, Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY – ONE SERVICE
LESSONS & CAROLS 10am

Sun, Jan 1 NEW YEARS DAY
ONE SERVICE 10am