JANUARY 2017

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

The Visitor

living generously

A COMMUNITY IN THE MODEL OF CHRIST

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COVER: Bringing an annual Swedish tradition to life-- Sankta Lucia.
INSIDE COVER: Spreading the holiday spirit at Beer and Carols.

Our community, our calling.

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

- 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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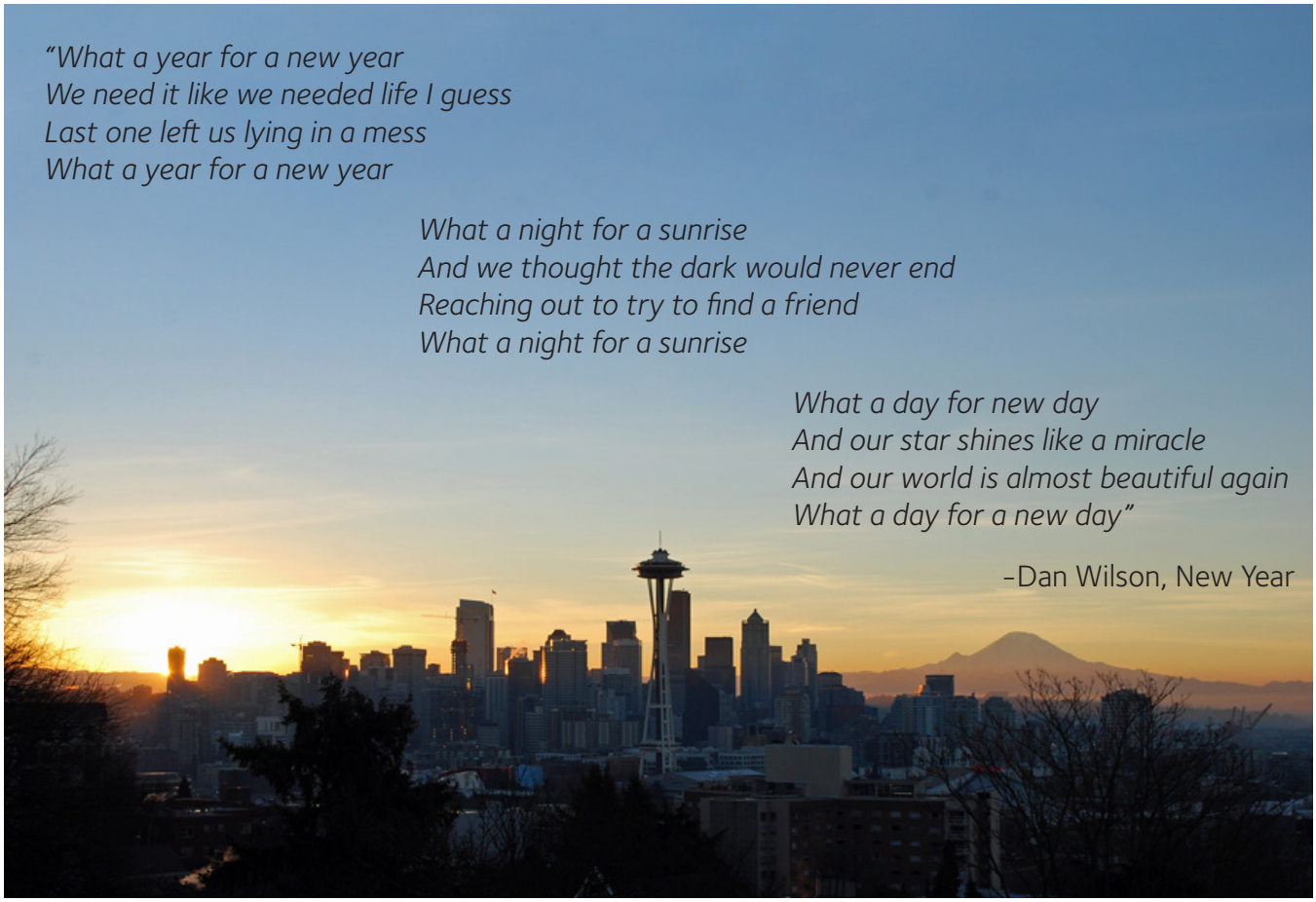
From the Pastor...



As we fall into the New Year like so much leftover Time's Square confetti, I pray that we have time to reflect. Time to delve into what made the last year amazing, and what made the last year miserable.

Gracious God, I pray that we can use our resolutions to be more Christlike in our daily walk, and to embody Jesus' love in the world today. Even as we recognize brokenness around every corner, remind us that each new day is a gift with the power to heal and move forward.

I pray that we have hearts that are willing to take the risk of being open and loving and inviting even when to do so seems unwise.

I pray that we look beyond cynicism and schedules to a place of real vulnerability that sees value in each human, different or alike.

I pray that we work our hardest to find unity, and justice, and mercy, and kindness when we don't even know where to begin.

I pray that we forgive before we're ready, and that we move on from painful places – releasing ourselves from the prison of held losses.

I pray that we put ourselves last, and bring others to the front, claiming and naming and actually buying the mantra "It's just *not* about me."

I pray that we are generous with our time, with our affection, and with each other knowing that it is in giving that we receive.

Peace to you, and a blessed Epiphany!

Pastor Gretchen

STEWARDSHIP

WOW! Such Generous Pledging this Fall!

Thank you, members and friends of Our Redeemer's, for your financial pledges to strengthen Our Redeemer's mission and ministry in the coming year and for the future!

In 2013, we adopted a strategic plan and in 2014 we adopted a budget that included new staff to implement the plan. Funding for new staff initially came from the Calvary Legacy fund, with the congregation funding an increasing amount each of 5-6 years, until all costs are covered by the congregation.

We projected needing to increase income by 5-6% every year to make that possible. We knew this was ambitious, but believed that not implementing the plan God is calling us to would be false economy, and not in keeping with our vision or our desire to be faithful. We have reconfigured some staff positions as we have moved forward, but the plan is unfolding AND, as we continue to develop ministry and mission, building use has been increasing and we have covered all expenses.

With our "Living Generously" emphasis -- begun this fall -- it appears our mission will be securely supported by all the many generous pledges.

- **2017:** 103 pledges. **2018:** 118 pledges ....*thus far.*
- Aggregate pledged dollars ~ **2017:** $324,534. **2018:** $346,041 ...*thus far.*
- 30 people pledged who did not pledge last year.

Our pledges are a powerful statement about the importance of a congregation like Our Redeemer's, as we plan for the future for the sake of our legacy -- which is to continue to shine Christ's light into a world which has never needed it more than now.

If you haven't yet pledged, please do so now!

On behalf of our beloved congregation AND on behalf all who are blessed by what God is doing through us, THANK YOU for your pledge and for all your support.

Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas -- LIVING GENEROUSLY!

Such a joy, all the singing and giving and celebrating! BUT, have you ever thought about how much generosity you and others pour out during this season? And how many folks God blesses through Our Redeemer's? Take a look. We've surpassed the 12 Days of Christmas, big time!

1	GOD, grace made flesh in Jesus of Nazareth.
2	Road2Housing Guests currently finding there IS room for them to stay at Our Redeemer's
14	Advent and Christmas Worship Services
15	Lucia Attendants, 1 Star Boy, 1 Tomten, and 1 Lucia Bride
18	Foot tall Christmas tree
19	People honored and remembered with poinsettias
23	Turkeys, 6 gallons of gravy, 175 lbs of vegetables for Community Thanksgiving Feast
26	Rehearsals
32	Carolers visiting 16 Homebound Members
54	Choir, Ensemble, Bell and Orchestra Music Makers
100	Caps hand knit by members and given for unsheltered folks
100	Pies baked by youth
125	Pairs of socks for unsheltered people given through the confirmation sock drive
140	Delicious Ballard Sunday Dinners for hungry, unsheltered folks
200	Sleeping Bags warming frigid bodies
220	Thanks Giving Feast Meals made and enjoyed
228	Giving Tree Gifts + $600 to Bless People Through Charitable Organizations, including Road2Housing, Broadview Thompson K-8 In-house Giving Tree, and Mary's Place.
300+	Sandwiches shared with homeless folks
600	Candles lit
1555	Worship Bulletins
2500	Cookies Munched (More cookies given than EVER before! Thank you!)

COUNTLESS -- Prayers, Gifts and Acts of Kindness on the part of our congregation!

God is smiling -- So are we. There is so much joy in giving!

TEXT 2 GIVE

NEW Give-by-Text Electronic Giving Option

In case you missed the hot pink flier I included your quarterly giving statements, I am excited to announce that Our Redeemer's has a great new easy (really) way of giving your tithes and offerings. Through Give-by-Text you simply:

1. Enter the ten digit phone number: 206-717-8465 and the amount you wish to donate, then press send.
2. You will receive a registration link. Click the link and enter your contact and payment information. Tap "Process."
3. After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text as well as a receipt via email.
4. For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically.

It's really that simple. And, if you wish to give to a designated fund, such as the Vision-aligned Building (VAB) Fund, simply type the amount and the fund code (e.g. "100 VAB") and hit send. If you don't know or can't remember the code for a fund, just type in "Funds" and you will be sent a list of all active designated funds set-up on Give-by Text.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Parish Administrator, Don Boelter (administrator@ourredeemers.net or 206-783-7900 x.107).

Will You Resolve to Find "Financial Peace" in 2018?

Wednesday evenings, starting Jan. 24 ~ 6:30pm

If so, the Our Redeemer's Generosity Team is offering a popular and highly recommended workshop series that can help with your New Year's goal. Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm, starting Jan. 24, Latife Neu, church member and attorney whose practice areas include assisting people with bankruptcy and debt issues, will be facilitating a nine-week program called Financial Peace University ("F.P.U."). Each class will focus on practical ways you can achieve financial peace through: budgeting, debt management, financial communication with your spouse/partner, and many other subjects. Cost for classes and all program materials is $109 per family. Interested? Please contact Parish Administrator Don Boelter, administrator@ourredeemers.net, 206-783-7900 x.107) for more information, questions, and/or to sign up. **Sign-up Deadline is January 11.**

BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION!

Vision-Aligned Building Update

On December 7, members of the Vision-Aligned Building Team met with architect Susan Jones to complete work on an Authorization to Proceed services contract with her firm, atelierjones llc., so Susan and her team could resume work on:

1. Procuring design subconsultant fees for structural, civil, landscape and lighting design consultants to be contracted under atelierjones.
2. Setting up and attending a project Pre-submittal Meeting with Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection for the project to confirm:
   a. Land Use: Conditional Use Project/Administrative Review Process
   b. Building Permit Process: Substantial Alteration Threshold
3. Setting up and attending a building walkthrough with consultants, and review the building survey. And,
4. Meeting and partnering with our contractor, LZL Construction to evaluate and create value engineering (VE) options to meet budget.

Susan also informed the VAB Team that atelierjones' was recognized by the prestigious journal Faith & Form with an award for their work on Bellevue First Congregational' s new church building on the east side. Please stop by the church office if you would like to take a look at this article and pictures of their work on Bellevue First.

As referenced above, we have now entered the phase of the project where we will need to hire structural and other engineering consultants as the architect begins to create permit drawings. Therefore, we will need to bring a motion before the congregation to approve funds for these subconsultants' fees at a:

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 21 ~ Between Services

Please plan on attending this important meeting to vote on approving these funds, and hear from members of the Vision-aligned Building Team.

The VAB Team is: Jim Arnold, Don Boelter (Parish Administrator), Pastor Kathy Hawks, Mike Hlastala, Kirsten Malone, Ryan Mertes, and Guy Michaelsen.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Epiphany

On January 6th, there is a long-held tradition of blessing a family's home. The family gathers to ask God's blessing on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a guest in our home, to bless our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

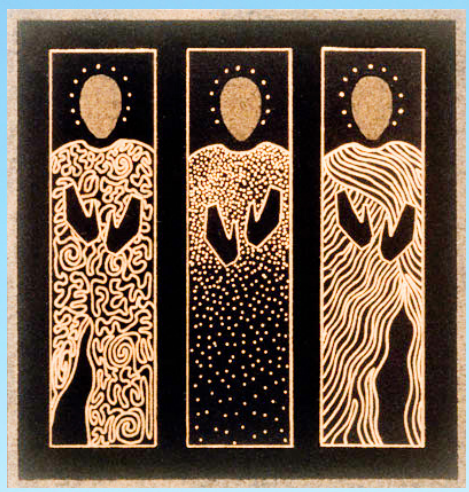
A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance. It can also be written somewhere inside the home. 20+C+M+B+18. The letters C, M, B have two meanings:

- They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.
- They also abbreviate the Latin words Christus mansionem benedicat, "May Christ bless the house."

After the letters are written, you can read the blessing on the next page from Jan Richardson, or a member of the household may pray this prayer:

God of heaven and earth, you revealed your Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this home and all who live in it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. Loving God, visit this home daily. May there be no evil here. Let all who live here in peace. May you bless us, and all whom we love, today and forever. Amen

Wherever you make your home, may it be blessed, and may you enter this Epiphany and the coming year in peace.



The Year as a House: A Blessing

Jan Richardson

Think of the year
as a house:
door flung wide
in welcome,
threshold swept
and waiting,
a graced spaciousness
opening and offering itself
to you.

Let it be blessed
in every room.
Let it be hallowed
in every corner.
Let every nook
be a refuge
and every object
set to holy use.

Let it be here
that safety will rest.
Let it be here
that health will make its home.
Let it be here
that peace will show its face.
Let it be here
that love will find its way.

Here
let the weary come
let the aching come
let the lost come
let the sorrowing come.

Here
let them find their rest
and let them find their soothing
and let them find their place
and let them find their delight.

And may it be
in this house of a year
that the seasons will spin in beauty,
and may it be
in these turning days
that time will spiral with joy.
And may it be
that its rooms will fill
with ordinary grace
and light spill from every window
to welcome the stranger home.

Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, Jan. 7 ~ 11am

A traditional time of baptism for children and adults. If you or someone in your family would like to be baptized, please contact Pastor Kathy or Pastor Gretchen.

Help Write Our Devotional For Lent

Our seniors group, Life Masters, is taking the lead in creating Our Redeemer's own devotional booklet this Lent. No special skill is necessary for writing a VERY brief reflection or sharing a memory that relates to a particular day's scripture. Just honest sharing. Curious? Or interested? Please contact Pastor Kathy or Jim Arnold.

New Year's Eve Morning Worship - One Service @ 10am

Sunday, Dec. 31 ~ 10am

RELEASE AND REFRESH

Surrendering 2017; Opening to 2018.

On the last day of this year, we'll gather up all the joys and sorrows of 2017 and release them into God's hands. We will also reflect on our hopes for the new year, and pray for God's guidance, wisdom and strength in in 2018.

Confess and give thanks for all that has been, receive prayer for healing from the year's losses and bruises, and listen: where may God be calling you in this new year?

There will be beautiful music and time for reflection. Don't miss this opportunity to begin the year in peace and hope.

Christmas Pageant

LuciaFest

FAITH FORMATION

Exploring Your Faith? Considering Becoming a Member? Come to the Journey

What IS the Journey at Our Redeemer's? A faith-exploration, faith-formation, community-building, life-renewing seven Sundays in Lent (mostly). Sunday, Feb. 18 – Sunday, Mar. 25 ~ 4-6pm

People participate in the Journey for all kinds of different reasons:

- Does your faith need a boost? Come, be renewed.
- Not sure what you believe? Come, share your faith journey.
- Are you curious about Our Redeemer's as a community? Come, learn more.
- Do you want to connect with people at Our Redeemer's in a meaningful way? Come, get acquainted.

We'll share "heavy hors d'oeuvres," ask our honest questions, spend time listening to the Bible and our own lives, find out more about the Lutherans, and about ministries at Our Redeemer's. Child care? You bet, if you let us know you need it. RSVP to Pastor Kathy Hawks (kathyh@ ourredeemers.net) or Pastor Gretchen Mertes (pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net).

A New Idea for You to Consider: Bible Study

Wednesdays ~ 10:30am-12pm

Perhaps some of you think of the Wednesday morning Bible Study as a commitment for a whole year, and, in a sense, it is. The Jesus and the Gospels course will last until spring. BUT, what if the commitment was for only four (4) Wednesdays. You could pick your favorite Gospel or Gospels, see the dates and topics under each book, and join us for those weeks. Is that a good idea? That way you would get to read and study the Gospel you pick in a new and thorough way. As you know, the word **Gospel means Good News. Aren't you ready for some**

January 3-24
Gospel of Luke-Acts

- The Prophetic Gospel
- God's Prophet
- The Prophet and the People
- Acts - The Prophet's Movement

January 31-February 21
Gospel of John

- Context or Conflict
- Jesus as the Man from Heaven
- Jesus as Obedient Son
- Witness to the Truth

Sunday Morning Bible Exploration
Out of the Waters: Resisting the Power of Fear

Jan. 7-Feb. 11 ~ 10:10am

Originally, stories in the Bible were not read from a formal lectern; they were vividly shared around the campfire and urgently passed on from one generation to another. Coming out of an oral culture, the stories were recorded in a way that invites the listener to get to know the characters—to see them as relatable, fully human beings, rather than distant "holy heroes."

These classes each begin with reading a portion of text out loud. Then we'll share what we heard or noticed, with questions to keep us focused on shared discovery. Everyone in the session has something to offer and something to learn.

"Out of the Waters" will engage us in **the biblical story as it relates to issues of migration.** We will:

- Explore issues of migration through the lens of Scripture.
- Experience the Exodus by bringing the roles of Moses, Miriam, Pharaoh and others vividly to life.
- Express the connection between the biblical story and your own stories.
- Expand your perception of migrants and refugees in your community and in our culture.

  - **January 7:** A Pharaoh Who Did Not Know Joseph (Exodus 1:1-14)
  - **January 14:** They Are Not Like Us (Exodus 1:15-21)
  - **January 21:** Moses, The First Mojado (Exodus 1:22-2:10)
  - **January 28:** Hyphenated Egyptian (Exodus 2:11-3:10)
  - **February 4:** What Is that in Your Hand? (Exodus 3:9-4:17)
  - **February 11:** Now You Shall See What I Will Do (Exodus 5:1-6:7, selected)

About the author, David Vásquez:

• He is a campus pastor at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Following a 2008 immigration raid in Postville, Iowa, he helped care for the devastated community. Originally from Guatemala, he has worked with the Lutheran Refugee Committee in Canada and has focused his research on immigration as a central image in sacred texts.

• Pastor Vásquez holds an MDiv from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and received his DMin in preaching through the Association of Chicago Theological Schools.

Our Social Justice Coordinator, Cara Kiggins, will facilitate this study with Pastor Kathy and Pastor Gretchen present for Bible background.

Join in!

Confirmation

Confirmation classes may be on break until February, but don't forget that sermon notes, worship assistants, and service events are all still on the docket, even when class isn't! Starting in February, we will be learning more about the New Testament, and working on some new fun events.

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.

National Youth Gathering

Our seven youths and three adult leaders are working hard to get ready for the National Youth Gathering in Houston this June. Monthly Bible studies and cultural immersion experiences are forming new relationships among us that prepare us to serve, worship, and play together with 30,000 other youth from across the country who are traveling there as well. We are also working hard fundraising to defray the costs of attending, which around about $1000 a person. Be on the lookout for youths asking for your investment - baking cookies and flamingo-ing your neighbors yard, and even encouraging you to invest in them directly as stockholders in their faith lives. From our synod, there are 21 groups, and 250 people registered to attend. Pastor Gretchen and Shelbe Kukowski (council member, and adult leader) are attending the Extravaganza in January, hoping to be well informed of where we're going and what to expect this summer. Please keep us all in your prayers.

Extravaganza

January 27-30

Pastor Gretchen has been invited to be the stage host/MC at the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's Extravaganza in Houston, TX January 27-30. Along with her amazing co-host, Joe Davis (www.joedavispoetry.com), she will wow 1000 youth workers from across the country with her songs, humor, and theological prowess. :) Please pray for her, and for them, as these folks are regaled with her talents. The Extravaganza is an annual event, and this year has special programming for the National Youth Gathering happening in July this year. You can read more information here: https://www.elcaymnet.org/extmainstage.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Giving Tree Blessings

Thank you so much to everyone who spent their time, energy, and resources to help sponsor a tag (or several!) on the Giving Tree this year. You did so purely from the heart, with such generosity, and it is much appreciated! Your gifts this year will impact those near and far, from the less fortunate in our own community to those half way around the world, struggling to recover from the hurricane in Puerto Rico.

This year, there were more tags on the tree than ever before! Thank you so much for stepping up to tackle that challenge! We started with over 200 tags, and a few more were added the weekend of Lucia, as need arose. It is so amazing to watch as each of these was fulfilled, even the last few remaining were covered by cash donations to cover any need. So for those hundreds of acts of kindness and generosity, thank you all!

As the organizer of the Giving Tree, it is a blessing to have the opportunity to channel your gifts to those in need. The groups that we sponsored with tags this year were Peter's Place through Compass Housing Alliance, Mary's Place, Broadview-Thompson K-8, the Toa Alta community in Puerto Rico, and our own Safe Parkers. By the week before Christmas, 228 gifts from over 200 tags were either delivered or on their way to our individual recipients and chosen charities!

Even though the Giving Tree is anonymous with respect to what is given, by whom & for whom, it is clear to me that this is a very personal gift from the heart. The time and effort that you put into selecting the gifts and returning them to church, and the generosity with which you fulfill the tags is truly touching! Thank you to all for these blessings!

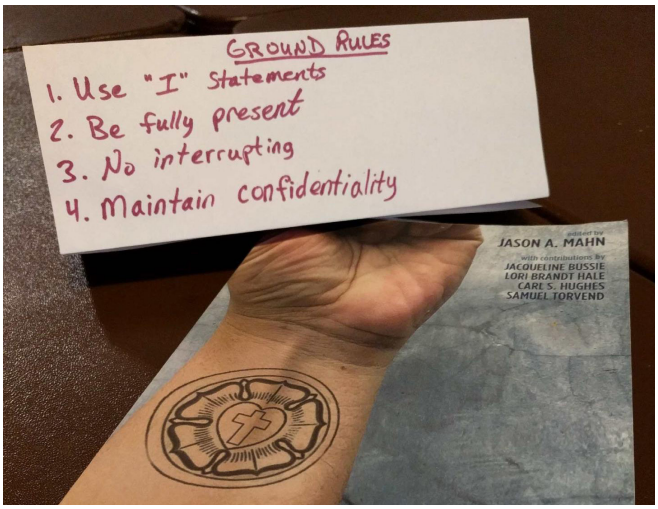
Sincerely, Paula Hlastala

Road2Housing

The Road2Housing taskforce met with Shree Vigil, the former Road to Housing Program Manager and learned from her some of the more detailed aspects of Compass Housing Alliance's role in our partnership. They've graciously committed to continue case management with the one guest who remains, even past the official program end date of 12/31.

We've been in communication with Seattle City Council and HSD. All the agencies serving unhoused are in flux and we expect to sit down and talk to them in the New Year, as they know more. In the mean-time, Cara Kiggins our Social Justice Coordinator has been present at meetings with social service providers about how things are changing and will be visiting with some of the congregations outside of King County that provide safe parking ministries.

We aren't sure what shape Road2Housing will take moving forward but we are sure we're committed to ensuring our ample parking lot, warm fellowship hall, showers, laundry, kitchenette, and community remain available to our neighbors living in their vehicles in a sustainable way. The original program took a fair amount of effort and patience to build so we are expecting it to take some time to cultivate a new sustainable partnership. Please continue to pray for the Road2Housing taskforce as we discern best next steps.



Social Justice Reading Group

Thursday, Jan. 11 ~ 7pm

You're welcome to join in our monthly reading group at any time, you don't have to have attended previous months. We will be voting on the next book to read. Head to www.surveyhero.com/c/aaed3f15 to indicate which book sounds most interesting to you! Contact Cara Kiggins (outreach@ourredeemers.net) with any questions.

Social Justice Team Quarterly Meeting & Potluck

Sunday, Jan. 14 ~ 1230pm

The Social Justice Team will convene to review current and ongoing social justice programs at Our Redeemer's, and to vote on allocation of Benevolence funds. Of all the funds that enter Our Redeemer's, we tithe 10%. We give 7% to the Church at large, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and we give 3% to efforts and organizations of our own choosing. The Social Justice Team allocates these 3% Benevolence funds via voting at each quarterly meeting. Anyone from the Our Redeemer's community is welcome to participate in any Social Justice Quarterly meeting! Lend your voice and vision to where we direct Our Redeemer's resources.

The EarthCare Team Welcomes You!

April 20-22 ~ EarthCare Retreat

The EarthCare Team ensures the Our Redeemer's community engages in best practices for preserving this gift of a planet on which we reside. Our big event of the year, the EarthCare Retreat, is all set for April 20-21-22 in 2018, and we'd love to increase our team membership to help with the planning. In addition to the Retreat, we plan and lead three hikes each year (winter, spring, fall), work with the pastors on a spring Earth-related theme around Earth Day (April 22nd each year), piggy-back onto the youth e-recycling efforts with styrofoam recycling (once or twice each year), and other Creation Care activities as they arise. To learn more, ask an EarthCare Team member: Linda Ellingboe, Cara Kiggins (outreach@ourredeemers.net), Tricia Kloth, Eric Running, Candace Todd-Robbins or Margaret Wetter (margaretwetter@comcast.net).

Embrace Beautiful Creation on a Group Hike!

Saturday, Feb. 17 ~ 9am

The EarthCare Team has not yet selected a trail for this winter walk. If you have an idea for a lowland, relatively flat hike within an hour and a half of Seattle, five miles in length (more or less), please let Margaret know: margaretwetter@comcast.net.

Loving Our Neighbors Includes Getting the Know Our Neighbors: Mosque Potluck

Sunday, Feb. 18 ~ 530pm

We continue in our commitment to coming alongside our Muslim siblings as they face xenophobia in these difficult times. Thank you to those of you who attended last month's potluck. The food was delicious (that Mediterranean-style rice tho!), the company excellent, and the conversations enlightening, as always. The potlucks are now every other month, with the next potluck on Sun February 18th. Mark your calendar!

Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief Supplies

Lutheran World Relief needs ALOT of dark colored, not heavy bath towels. JC Penney has some good sales. IKEA towels work as well, in the darker colors. They also need Ivory soap and toothbrushes-- Lots! Drop them off in the church office. *Thanks!*

Feed the Hungry - Ballard Sunday Dinner

Sunday, Jan. 21 ~ 5pm

This time of year, a warm meal can make an especially huge difference in a person's life when they are living outside in the cold and rain. I recently had a conversation with a woman at the Thanksgiving Dinner where she explained that she has been experiencing homelessness for about three years, but this is her fourth winter and it's the first time she's felt truly hungry. She said she's having to prioritize her energy on finding ways to eat at least once a day, because she kept missing days and it was wreaking havoc on her physically and emotionally. Please consider volunteering to serve some warmth and nutrition to folks who could sorely use it.

Shifts include:

- **2-6pm Food Prep:** Chop, cook, and prepare food under the direction of the Leads.
- **4-6:15pm Set Up & Serve:** Set up tables and chairs and serve guests as they arrive. This is an excellent shift for youth between 13-18 or for children under 12 to serve with a supervising adult.
- **4:15-6:15pm Greeters:** Greet guests as they arrive and direct them towards the meal.
- **5:30-7:30pm Serve & Close:** Finish serving guests then help clean up and close.

Sign up online here tinyurl.com/jzpyoxs. Contact Cara Kiggins (outreach@ourredeemers.net) with any questions.

COMMUNITY

Women's Retreat

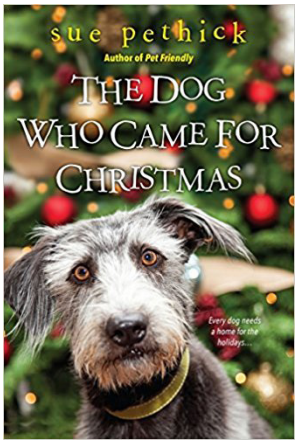
Feb. 9-12

The women's retreat is February 9-12th this year, and we are in the planning stages! Please contact Pastor Gretchen for more information or to be on the team.

Young Families - Time to Get Out of the House!

Saturday, Jan. 13 ~ 6pm

Game Night! Join us in the fellowship hall for a night of fun games and food! Bring your favorite game, and a side to share. The main course will be provided. The nursery will be open if it is needed, so bring your kids (or not)! Our young families group is for families with kids 3 and under. Friends are always welcomed! Check in with Pastor Gretchen if you have questions.



Madonna's Book Group

Sunday, Jan. 14 ~ 4 pm

In January we will meet on the 14th in Sue Griffith's home to discuss The Dog Who Came for Christmas by Sue Pethick. Contact Margaret Wetter (margaretwetter@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

Bring Sandwich Fixings and Make Some Sandwiches for Hungry Folks!

Sunday, Jan. 28 ~ between services

Please bring gargantuan amounts of sandwich bread, sliced meats, cheese, peanut butter, and jelly. 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) with questions, amounts you're purchasing and if you'd like to help with delivery!

Meal-Making Group Continues to Feed One Another!

Sunday, Jan. 14 ~ 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 3 times this fall, 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!

THE CHURCH OF STEADFAST LOVE

Service of Remembrance

Friday, Jan. 6 ~ 4pm ~ Church of Steadfast Love

Please join us for a time to remember, honor and pray for those who have died on the streets or as a result of being homeless. Contact Pr. Kristy Daniels at PastorKristy@compasshousingalliance.org for more information or if you have any names to add to the list, or call (206) 474-1007. For those who would like to contribute, Compass Housing will gratefully accept hygiene items to be distributed through our different programs to those in need.

Life Masters (Seniors) Make Plans for the New Year

Again, about 20 folks came together for our third monthly gathering. This time we shared wonderful food, sang some Christmas carols and looked ahead to the first half of 2018. Goals for this newly forming group are: getting to know one another, learning together, growing in faith, and having fun. Right now, the group plans to continue meeting most months on the 2nd Friday of the month for a brown bag lunch (dessert and beverages provided) and a presentation or activity that encourages getting acquainted.

Everything this new group does is absolutely open to any 55+ year old -- including your friends or neighbors. It's a great group, and it's only going to get better! Put these dates on your calendar.

Tentative plans:

January 12: Learning to Play Again
Play is essential to adult development and being healthy. Pastor Kathy will share what she's learned about the importance of play in later years and Intern Katlin Dickinson-Laurence will share some thoughts about God and play.

Please bring your favorite game or collaborative toy (e.g. Legos, etc.)

We'll revisit preparations already underway for this group to share the wisdom they've gained over the years, to take the lead with a daily Lenten devotional.

February 9: Leaning toward Lent
Conversation: What is your Lenten discipline and experience? We may take a look at the history of Lent, and spend a bit of time on prayer.

Ash Wednesday is February 14 this year -- Valentine's Day. One possibility is to make cards for our homebound members, or for a special someone, or family. We have members who bring much experience in card-making.

March 9: Brain Rules for Aging Well.
A book by Seattle Pacific University prof, John Medina, that "gives you the fact, and the prescription to age well, in Medina's signature engaging style. With so many discoveries over the years, science is literally changing our minds about the optimal care and feeding of the brain." No, this won't be an hour about eating right and exercising. Many interesting and appealing insights.

April 13: Tulip Festival?
Looking into possible tours, including an Argosy cruise.

May 11: Tour of the Newly Opened Nordic Heritage Museum.
With lunch beforehand, bring a picture or an heirloom from your own heritage to share.

June 8: Progressive Dinner.
In the evening.

Member Highlight: TOM/MATT

1. What made you want to attend and become confirmed at Our Redeemer's?

We had been going to a church in Wallingford for about 20 years and found ourselves not being very involved. We'd always had our eye on Our Redeemers (and Pastor Kathy) so we decided to join and ultimately be confirmed.

2. Where are you from?

Matt grew up in Bellingham; Tom from Bellevue

3. What are your interests?

We both love being at home with our dog, Toby, and our cat, Willie. Matt's a voracious reader and loves to exercise; Tom is less focused and likes to do a little bit of everything.

4. Something you look forward to this coming year?

We look forward to the continuing good health of our family, some travel and generally being happy.

5. Favorite thing about coming to church?

The music at the 9 am service and all the nice people we see at Our Redeemers.

6. Has your involvement at Our Redeemer's changed the way you think about anything?

We all need to be reminded that we're all equal in this big world. Both of us have had an immense amount of good fortune in our lives and we are reminded, at Our Redeemers, to be kind, loving and to try to be a light to others who aren't as fortunate as we are.

Theology on Tap

Tuesday, Jan. 23 ~ 7pm
121 NW 85th St. (Janus Apartments)

After all the holiday hullabaloo has died down wouldn't it be nice to have a relaxing evening with friends talking about God? Well you can! In January we'll be talking about the church season of Epiphany. Rather than going out to a bar, this month we're taking over the common room at the Janus apartments on 85th near the Fred Meyer. Bring a snack or drink to share! Contact Emilie Purvine (emiliepurvine@gmail.com) or Betsy McGregor (bemac7309@gmail.com) to find out more.

January Birthdays

1	Stephanie Kreshel
2	Ryan Brady
2	Carleen See
3	Robin Bennett
5	Elyse Allen
5	Erica Prentice
6	Matthew Anderson
7	Mark Buening
8	Annelise Glover
8	Liz Wagner
9	Brennalee Campbell
9	Paula Hlastala
10	Rocco Lenihan
12	Marie Nordquist-Lessard
12	Charlie See
13	Carole Trigstad
14	Joshua Liljenstolpe
14	Arlene Templin
15	Collette Brown
15	Chloe Dixon
15	Colette Duke
15	Dave Pelto
15	Oskar Somm
17	Miriam Neu
18	Siri Longaker
18	Larry Lundberg
22	Dorothy Egaas
22	Quinn McCormick
22	Paul Wallstrom
23	Max Olson
23	Erica Orr
24	Tyler Thomas
25	Heather Cook
25	Janice LaBrash
27	Lars Anderson Sveum Hanson
27	Jonah Hlastala
28	Linda Oswald
29	Don Simpson
30	Annette White-Yetter
31	Wyatt Davies-Kang

Thanks be to God For: 90+ Years Old!

Blanche Anderson ~ January 3, 1925 ~ 93 years old!
Ruby Brantner ~ January 30, 1917 ~ 101 years old!

"Thank you for your recent gift of $1000 given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in October 2017. With these gifts you are providing education and advocacy, water and sanitation, livestock and agriculture, health care and microloans."

-Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

"Thank you for your generous gift to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund! Your donation ensures that LWR Quilts and Kits get into the hands of people who need them most."

-Daniel Speckhard
President and CEO,
Lutheran World Relief

Sundays:
9am - Informal Worship
11am - Traditional Worship

January 2017

ourredeemers.net/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 *Happy New Year!* *Office Closed*	**2**	**3** *Office Closed** 730am Men's Breakfast 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 6pm National Youth Gathering Planning 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir	**4** 345pm Staff Meeting 6pm Centering Prayer and Meal 7pm Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal	**5** 130pm Folders	**6**
7 1010am Adult Class	**8** 9am Quilters	**9**	**10** 9am Executive Committee 10am Staff Meeting 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir	**11** 6pm Centering Prayer 7pm Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal 7pm Social Justice Reading Group	**12** 12pm Life Masters Potluck 130pm Folders	**13** 9am Traditional Worship Team 5pm Young Adult Game Night
14 1010am Adult Class 130pm Meal Group 1230pm Social Justice Quarterly Meeting	**15** *MLK Day* *Office Closed* 9am Quilters	**16** 630pm Church Council Bible Study and Meeting	**17** 10am Staff Meeting 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir	**18** 9am Road2Housing 6pm Centering Prayer 7pm Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal	**19** 130pm Folders	**20** 1pm Caring Community Team
21 1010am Adult Class 1010am Congregational Meeting 5pm Ballard Sunday Dinner	**22** 9am Quilters	**23** 7pm Theology on Tap	**24** 10am Staff Meeting 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir	**25** 6pm Centering Prayer 7pm Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal	**26** 130pm Folders	**27**
28 1010am Adult Class 1010am Sandwich Sunday	**29** 9am Quilters	**30**	**31** 10am Staff Meeting 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir			

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN · BALLARD

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www.ourredeemers.net
206-783-7900

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return service requested

WEEKLY WORSHIP
Sunday - 9 a.m. (Informal) 11 a.m. (Traditional)
Thursday - 6 p.m. (Centering Prayer)
One 10 a.m. service - Sunday, Dec. 31

Holden Village Summer
Save the Date - Save Your Space!

July 2-8

For ALL Ages! Hiking! Learning! Music! Hilarity! Worship! Relaxation! Time with Family and Friends, New & Old

Register Now:
ourredeemers.net/holden-village-2018/

Questions? Contact Pastor Kathy (kathyh@ourredeemers.net)

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.