

MAY 2018

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

The Visitor



day by day

A COMMUNITY IN THE MODEL OF CHRIST

Contents

FROM THE PASTOR 3

WORSHIP AND MUSIC 4-5

STEWARDSHIP 6-7

FAITH FORMATION 8-9

VISION ALIGNED BUILDING 10

SOCIAL JUSTICE/EARTHCARE 11-15

COMMUNITY 16-22

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT 20-21

CALENDAR 23

COVER: Linda Ellingboe, Kari Guddal, and Sandi Box cleaning up the beach at Point Grenville during the EarthCare Retreat.

INSIDE COVER: Craig Myers, Max Myers, and Colin McBride excited to accept donations for the Electronics/Styrofoam Recycling.



Our community, our calling.



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

FROM THE PASTOR...

*"But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach
you;*

and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

*Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being. "*

-Job 12:7-10

At the Earth Care Retreat in April, 26 of our members journeyed through the Tacoma traffic to find ourselves on the deep low tide of Pacific Beach. As always, it is awe inspiring, moving, and beautiful. We were ready for the rain and wind, but instead the sun beamed down on us, browning our noses and gladdening our hearts. Each person, from the largest to the smallest was armed with black plastic trash bags, and we set out to collect marine debris - fishnets, floats, gloves, boots, rope and line, and broken styrofoam. Amongst it we found countless plastic single-use water bottles and caps, lightbulbs, the occasional piece of Japanese tsunami debris, and piles of plastic shotgun shells. I wondered as I approached each clump of seagrass that looked clean of garbage if maybe this one would be plastic-free, but there was always something to pick up. Even if someone else had just walked the same area cleaning, there would still be something to find. I found myself thinking about birds, and how if telling what was garbage and what was not was difficult for me - someone who knows what all this junk is, how hard would it be for a hungry animal to discern good from garbage?



This year there was a different element to the cleanup, as a juvenile grey whale had beached itself at high tide and died two days before the cleanup. It was perhaps 25 feet long, and mostly intact. My first thought, as well as everyone else who heard about it, was "Did it die of starvation? Of eating too much plastic?" And we don't know. It looked healthy enough. My guess is that it was just young and came too far in during high tide and couldn't get back out to sea. But that thought - "Is its belly fully of plastic?" ... And its presence on the beach. ... And the amount of garbage we picked up. All of these thoughts were heavy and gave gravity to the beautiful day on the beach.

Our folks joined the good people of St. John By the Sea Presbyterian church on Sunday, and Pastor Jan Van Pelt used the above reading from Job to celebrate Earth Day and the good work of the beach cleaners. Her reflection really made me mindful of our calling not only to care for the earth and its inhabitants, but also to listen to them. Take the time. Reflect on the interconnectedness of creation and creatures and humans, and our responsibility here. How much has our need for convenience started to pull apart the web of creation? I pondered the tonnage of water bottles on the beach, and I thought about my own busyness and when I let convenience win over intentionality.

I pray that as we make daily choices, we can remember to ask the birds- and the whales- to remind us of the task which God has given us - to be stewards of the Earth. To care for the least of these. And maybe the most direct thing God said to me this weekend - Gretchen! Quit using plastic as much as you can!



What is God saying to you?

Gretchen Mertes

Pastor Gretchen Mertes

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



Pentecost & Music Sunday!

Sunday, May 20

Please join us at church on Sunday morning, May 20, as we celebrate Pentecost – the birth of the Church and the gift of the Holy Spirit! And this year, we combine this festival event with Music Sunday. At both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services, the Informal Music Ensemble, the Choir, and instrumentalists will join forces to lead spirit-filled worship. We look forward to bringing some of our favorite songs and hymns on this morning of combined musical efforts. And to add to the festivities, if you have either red or ethnic clothing, you are welcome to wear it for Pentecost. So, please come to Pentecost/Music Sunday on May 20. Everyone is invited to sing along – as Saint Augustine said, “The one who sings prays twice!”



Guest from Lutheran World Relief

Sunday, May 13

Jon Buuck, from Lutheran World Relief, will be joining us as an honored guest speaker on Sunday May 13th during both worship services in addition to the Adult Education Hour between services. Lutheran World Relief works to break the cycle of poverty for families in the world's poorest communities, and responds to some of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Jonathan (Jon) Buuck is Associate Director of Philanthropic Engagement at Lutheran World Relief. Jon meets with donors to connect their passions and generosity with LWR's work overseas in which each person, every community, and all generations live in justice, dignity and peace. He has worked for LWR since 2013.

Centering Prayer

Thursdays, 6-6:30pm

Mindfulness not only soothes, but improves. Contemplation that focuses your brain on the present, rather than the past or future, both reduces stress and boosts cognition.

--Brain Rules for Aging Well, John Medina

Give yourself the gift of centering, quiet, and time with God. You've never tried it? A brief description is available, but it is very simple. Just come and breathe deep. Thursdays, 6-6:30PM in the sanctuary.

Annual Celebration & Auction: May 19

Celebrate and Support Our Redeemer's!

One of the most fun and exciting parties of the year is just around the corner. We're mixing it up a little this year, trying something new! Here's what you need to know to be there:

- Saturday, May 19th from 5pm – 8pm at Our Redeemer's in the Fellowship Hall
- NO admission charge!
- Food tickets will start at \$5, and bid numbers will be \$30 and can be purchased at the door.
- KID friendly! Food and fun!
- Lego events for big kids, and even fun activities for the littles.
- LIVE music!
- Alex Enger, Brittany Rogers, and Alejandro Gonzalez will bring a variety of music and harmony to the party with soulful singing, original numbers, and tight harmonies.
- TWO food trucks to choose from!
- Which ones? You'll know when we know. :)
- TRIVIA games and prizes!
- Fun for all ages, and no cost to participate. Answers are found all around the church, and in the church newsletter.
- AMAZING live auction items!

From tickets to your favorite sports team, to fun outings, to music events, boating

adventures, vacation getaways, and even some big surprise items, the live auction is always a hoot! Tim Hunter is our returning auctioneer of awesomeness, and will have us laughing the night away. All the items in the auction are donated by church members to serve the combined purpose of supporting the ministry of the church, building relationships between members (almost all the items are experiences, not things!), and bring joy to the lives of those who give and receive!

This event is both a celebration of our congregation – the work and love and life we do together, and also an important source of income to keep the ministry of this church happening. What a great thing to have a party that doubles as a fundraiser! As a congregation, we count on the live auction and its proceeds to bolster the goodwill and the budget of Our Redeemer's. It also happens to be a great way to introduce your friends to this place (who you've been meaning to invite to church anyway), and to hang out with your church family. Win-win-win-win!

Please sign up in the fellowship hall (no ticket charge!), so we can properly estimate childcare, food, and seating. Besides, that way you can see who the competition is to win tickets to the Sounders games! Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Gretchen if you have questions, concerns, comments, or would like to volunteer with helping to set up or clean up.

STEWARDSHIP



*Thank you for your contributions
to God's work through Our Redeemer's!*

*Without your gifts of
participation, leadership
and financial support,
we wouldn't be the same
or have the impact we do.*

WAYS TO GIVE

Participation and Leadership Your interests, skills, and passions shape Our Redeemer's community and mission. Please contact Welcome Minister Nancy Oldenkamp (office@ourredeemers.net), Pastor Kathy or Pastor Gretchen, to find how you can connect to meaningful experiences, relationships, and opportunities.

DIY Electronic Giving and Assisted Electronic Giving ~ One-time or recurring gifts can be made on-line at www.ourredeemers.net/donate/ Administrator Don Boelter is happy to assist you.

Text to Give Simply text the dollar amount (as a number) that you would like to contribute to 206-717-8465. A one-time configuration process will connect your gift to your credit or debit card. Text "Repeat" to configure a recurring gift.

With all our electronic giving options, please use our "I Give Electronically" cards during the offering in worship.

Traditional Envelopes ~ Receive an assigned envelope number, and envelopes mailed to you every month. You can mail your gift or put it in the offering plate as part of your worship.

Other Assets -- *Our Redeemer's has a brokerage account that can receive your gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, IRAs, etc. (see website for details.) Many people realize tax advantages by gifting appreciated assets directly to Our Redeemer's. For more information or assistance, please contact Don Boelter (administrator@ourredeemers.net).*

Wills, Trusts, Insurance, Estate Plans If you would like to consider a legacy gift related to your concerns, passions, and issues that touch your heart, please contact Pastor Kathy (kathyh@ourredeemers.net) or Parish Administrator, Don Boelter (administrator@ourredeemers.net)

*Giving is a spiritual practice that enhances
meaning and purpose in our lives.*

*When we are generous we connect us to
something larger than ourselves.*

*Your offerings are a great opportunity to
talk with your kids about the significance
of God in your life.*

Financial Peace University

written by: Don Boelter

This past Fall, as part of our annual stewardship campaign planning, the Generosity Team discussed ways in which we could engage the congregation over and beyond our usual emphasis on Pledge Sunday. Parish Administrator Don Boelter suggested a program several church administrator colleagues of his highly recommended, Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University ("FPU").

For nine Wednesdays beginning on January 24, Our Redeemer's member Latife Neu facilitated this course focusing on how to manage the money God has given us. Topics covered during the 9-week course included:

- Saving Money,
- Communicating about Money,
- Cash Flow Planning,
- Dumping Debt,
- Buyer Beware,
- The Role of Insurance,
- Retirement and College Planning,
- Real Estate and Mortgages, and
- Unleashing the Power of Generous Giving.

Twelve people signed up for the initial offering of FPU at Our Redeemers—six members of the congregation, and six members of the community who signed up through the Dave Ramsey web site.

Among those from Our Redeemer's to attend were Jerry and Ronda Andrews. Though the Andrews have a high degree of sophistication when it comes to financial matters, they reported that only a relatively small percentage of the class is about nuts and bolts information (e.g. how to

budget, why credit card debt is bad, etc.). Instead, the majority of the class focuses on action behaviors and living the ideals taught in the class.

For example, Jerry stated that he and Ronda, like many couples, "talk about money in different ways... [this class] creates a safe place to talk about these issues and provides couples a common language in financial planning and how to be good stewards of the money God has given to us."

And for many younger, less experienced people, Jerry stated "this is the first time they are hearing the message about budgeting, saving and staying out of debt." The Andrews also mentioned that one of their adult children picked up the book that is included with the class registration, read it, and has already applied its principals and seen immediate positive results in their personal finances.

All the lessons in the FPU class are presented in a biblical context and are geared toward common sense, "small 'c'" conservative principals like staying out of debt and saving for the future. However, while biblical in its foundations, the classes are not designed to proselytize or convert new believers. The class is intended to speak to anyone regardless of their faith background.

A huge thanks to Latife Neu for volunteering her time on Wednesday nights (plus all the preparation time) to be the class facilitator. Also, thanks to Margaret Wetter for welcoming and taking care of logistical details on-site at the start of each class.

Plans are already in the works to offer this class again at Our Redeemer's, so be on the lookout in this space and all our usual communications venues for more information.

FAITH FORMATION

Wednesday's Bible Study Update

Wednesdays ~ 10:30am-12pm
by Carolyn Swanson

By the time you are reading this, the class will have completed some 34 lessons on Jesus and the Gospels. From our canon gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, through some of the apocryphal gospels, most of which we had never heard about, we have been on quite a journey. We finish this course on May 9, where we get back to the canon gospels. I think we all agree our church fathers made good choices, with the help of the Holy Spirit, as to which books became part of Scripture.

The apocryphal gospel of Mary Magdalen was an interesting departure of male dominated Scriptures. The Apostle Peter had a difficult time accepting that a mere woman should be held in such high regard by Jesus. This gospel even had her teaching the male disciples! James tried to reason with Peter on the subject.

So, we're rounding the bend towards the end of this year's study and this is the way we are going to do it:

May 2 – Jesus In and Through the Gospels
May 9 – Learning Jesus in Past and Present



For the last four sessions, we will use the videos of Alan Storey, South African pastor and justice activist, who was part of the Manna and Mercy study. He will illuminate Scripture for our time and place, using stories to make his point. All past Manna and Mercy students are welcome to join in. The dates are:

May 16
May 23
May 30
June 6

This grouping of study is an easy one for you to just pop in and partake. You'd be welcome!

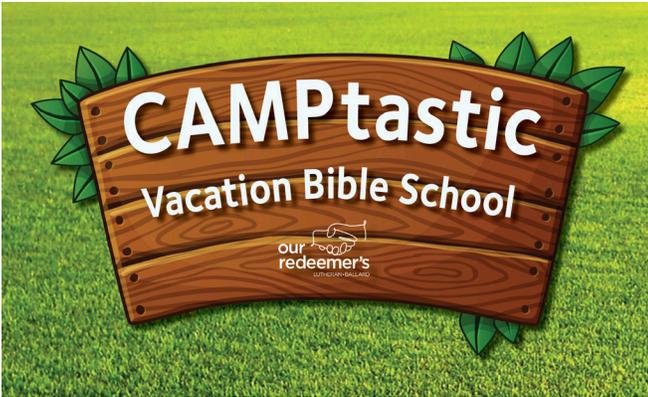


Theology on Tap

Thursday, May 22 ~ 7pm ~ Betsy McGregor's house

Please join us for Theology on Tap on May 22, at 7:00 PM at Betsy McGregor's house in Ballard. This month we'll be discussing the portrayal of God throughout the Bible. How do you interpret God from the Old Testament versus the New Testament? Do you see a contrast in His portrayal between the Old and New Testament and if so, why do you think that is? How does your interpretation affect your own faith?

Theology on Tap is a wonderful way to get to know your other in the Our Redeemer's faith community. Please bring a snack or beverage to share. If you have any questions, or need her address, please email Betsy at BeMac7309@gmail.com.



CAMPtastic Vacation Bible School

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

Join us this summer for our CAMPTASTIC Vacation Bible School! Kids aged 4-5th grade are invited to come to camp right here at church! We will have songs, crafts, stories, snacks, and of course, games! Children will have a blast with their friends at Vacation Bible School (VBS). The cost is \$75, and they'll need to bring their own lunches.

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

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

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

Youth Gathering

We are 65 days away from flying to Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering! Those of us who are going have been meeting once a month to discuss social justice issues, learn about the trip, and bond as a team. Currently, the biggest dilemma right now is what token we want to share with other youth groups that we meet in Texas. Some suggestions have included coins, pins, and buttons.

The youth have been diligently raising money separately and together. Some of the team events held recently include working Easter Breakfast (set up and clean up) and e-cycling. Keep on the lookout, because the youth are organizing a "buy stock" meeting that will take place soon! This is a fantastic way to invest in our youth and then learn how life altering the Gathering is once they're back home.

Continue to partner with us in prayer as we are in the final countdown for Houston! Pray that the youth are emboldened to reach outside their comfort zone during our Interactive Learning Day, that their hearts are tender to receive the message of God's grace each night at Mass Gatherings, and that their bodies hold up to the physical demands of the hot Houston summers.

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. Contact Pastor Gretchen for details.

BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION!



May 2018 Vision-Aligned Building (VAB) Update

Last month's edition of The Visitor included a detailed description of the VAB Team's "behind the scenes" work on our project since the completion of the Fellowship Hall phase. If you missed it, this two-page article is currently posted on the VAB bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, or you can contact Don Boelter, Parish Administrator (administrator@ourredeemers.net, 206-783-7900 x107) for an electronic or hard copy version.

In April's newsletter update, it was noted that atelierjones llc, our project architecture firm, would create and present several possible land rezoning and property development options that could provide additional revenue to meet the costs of the remainder of our VAB project. The only restriction they were given in this work was that current church parking capabilities needed to be maintained.

The VAB Team has received and started reviewing these options and their potential to generate revenue for future building renovation work that would fulfill our project goals and further Our Redeemer's Strategic Objectives of transforming spirituality, deepening community, and inviting people in/ministry-focused outreach.

As part of this review process, the VAB Team has employed the services of O'Connor Consulting Group (Seattle) to provide an appraisal of the non-contiguous church-owned properties located across NW 25th Street from the primary church property, considering both current zoning restrictions and the potential value of those properties if the land was successfully upzoned.

This appraisal work will be completed in late April or early May. Once received, The VAB Team will review further and determine if any of the possible property sale and/or development options would generate revenues adequate to meet our current project anticipated costs, while being consistent with Our Redeemer's Strategic Objectives. And if not, whether a rescaling of the overall renovation project is necessary.

Once the VAB Team has finished this work, a congregational informational meeting will be scheduled to present and get feedback on possible approaches to financing our renovation work. In the meantime, updates will continue to be provided in this space on a monthly basis, and you can contact any of the team members with questions or comments.

The VAB Team is: Mike Hlastala, Pastor Kathy Hawks, Jim Arnold, Kirsten Malone, Ryan Mertes, Guy Michaelsen, and Don Boelter, Parish Administrator (administrator@ourredeemers.net, 206-783-7900 x107).

SOCIAL JUSTICE / EARTHCARE

Social Justice Reading Group

Thursday, May 10 ~ 7pm

How do we move beyond “thoughts and prayers” with every injustice we see? How do we sustain a lifelong commitment to social justice work? The Social Justice Reading Group meets monthly to discuss books that offer insight and inspiration as we continually seek to be a community in the model of Christ. Over the past few months, we have been learning from Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil’s book, *Roadmap to Reconciliation*. In her book, Dr. Brenda offers a guide to reconciliation and justice that is sustainable for a lifelong commitment. Our next meeting is on May 10. We will be discussing chapters 5 & 6 on cultivating lasting relationships and lasting change. Please join in, you don’t have to have participated in previous discussions nor even have read the book to benefit from the discussion!



Bring Sandwich Fixings and Make Some Sandwiches for Hungry Folks!

Sunday, May 27th ~ between services

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

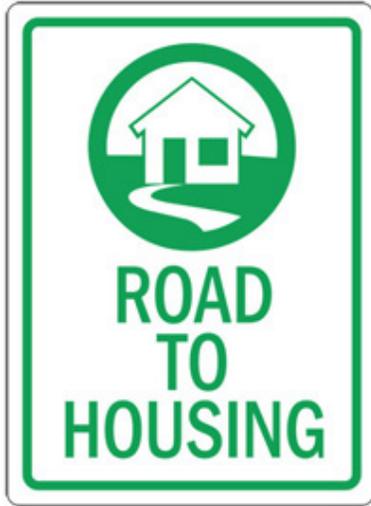


Social Justice Team Quarterly Meeting & Potluck

Sunday, May 27th ~ 12:30pm

The Social Justice Team will convene to review current and ongoing social justice programs at Our Redeemer’s, and to approve a new procedure of Benevolence giving. Of all the funds that enter Our Redeemer’s, we tithe 10%. We give 7% to our 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. A sub-committee has met and drafted a proposed procedure for submitting, voting on and selecting Benevolence recipients. We’ll be discussing this new procedure.

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. Bring a brunch potluck item to share.



Road2Housing Update

The Our Redeemer's Road to Housing Taskforce is pleased to announce we've made progress in establishing a new case management partner! The City of Seattle's Human Services Department and Navigation Team have helped us identify an organization to partner with. We're in the process of developing a Memorandum of Understanding for each party to sign. We're praying we will be able to welcome new guests, soon. If you have any questions or suggestions email Cara Kiggins (outreach@ourredeemers.net).



Feed the Hungry: Ballard Sunday Dinner

Sunday, May 20 ~ 5pm
Ballard First Lutheran Basement

In intentional and loving service to others, we live our vision as a community for the life of the world. Ballard Sunday Dinner is a neighborhood effort we're proud to be a part of, organized by five area churches along with Sustainable Ballard. Ballard Sunday Dinner provides a hot, wholesome meal every Sunday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Ballard First Lutheran Church (2006 NW 65th St, Seattle, WA 98117). We at Our Redeemer's are responsible for the third Sunday of each month - this month it's May 20. Sign up to help cook, greet guests, serve or clean up at tinyurl.com/ballardsundaydinner. Please let Cara Kiggins (outreach@ourredeemers.net) know if you'd like to learn more.

Mayor Durkan makes Seattle first city in country requiring standard min wage for disabled people @EssexKIRO7 @KIRO7Seattle #Seattle



12:55 PM - 13 Apr 2018

Niels Running was on Television!

Mayor Jenny Durkan was signing a bill requiring all workers with disabilities in Seattle be paid no less than minimum wage. Niels is at the far left of the photo with the Mayor speaking at the podium.



Volunteer to Help with Hospitality at Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering

Friday, May 4 ~ 8am-3pm
Saturday, May 5 ~ 8am-12noon

We need a few more willing people to help with hospitality at the Seattle Lutheran World Relief quilt and kit collection Friday all day and Saturday morning. We're looking for a couple more people to help keep the coffee brewing and the treat table stocked with cookies, sweet breads and other treats. It's a fun day meeting people from Lutheran church communities all over the Puget Sound region! Some will have traveled hours to get here, and are grateful for a cup of coffee and a treat before heading back home. Please email Cara Kiggins (outreach@ourredeemers.net) if you can help out and be sure to include whether you can volunteer Friday or Saturday.

Do you like to bake cookies and other goodies?

Friday, May 4 & Saturday, May 5

On Friday and Saturday 5/4-5 Churches from across Northwestern Washington will be traveling to Our Redeemer's to deliver School Kits, Infant Care Kits, Personal Care Kits, and Quilts. These items will be loaded into tractor trailers and sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution throughout the United States and the World. We could use some help with hospitality! Do you like to bake cookies and other goodies? If you have time to bake something to serve folks from the many churches who've traveled our way, we would appreciate it. Please drop off your goodies by Thursday, May 3rd and label them "LWR". Please contact Cara Kiggins (outreach@ourredeemers.net) if you can help with hospitality.

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

Friday, May 4 ~ 8am-3pm



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

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

Contact Stephanie Dykes (stephanie_new@hotmail.com) with any questions!

EarthCare

by: Margaret Wetter

Our EarthCare focus continues – May is National Bike Month! Biking is just one way to reduce your carbon footprint and your consumption of fossil fuels. Have you checked your carbon footprint lately? Here's a good on-line calculator: www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/

We'd love to get a "baseline" for our congregation; would you be willing to share your carbon footprint? If so, please send your number to Margaret: margaretwetter@comcast.net.



EarthCare Sunday

Sunday, May 6

- Please plan to bike, walk or bus to church as you are able.
- We welcome Jessie Dye. Jessie joined the Earth Ministry team in 2007 and helped establish Earth Ministry's faithful advocacy program. As of 2017 she became Senior Campaign Strategist, spearheading our work for climate justice and developing partnerships among faith communities, environmental groups and Native leaders in support of tribal sovereignty.
- Bike Parade and Blessing of the Bicycles! Between services, gather in the parking lot for a bike parade and have your bicycle blessed. Bring your bike already decorated; some embellishments will be available for children during Kid's Church. Let's make a spectacle!



EarthCare Hike

Saturday, May 5 ~ 9am

Join hike leader Tamara Anderson on a 2.6 mile (round trip) hike to Heybrook Lookout, a short and moderately steep hike through a fern and moss covered forest to a fun, staircase-ridden lookout with great views of the nearby mountains. Weather permitting, you'll be able to feast your eyes on Mount Persis and Mount Baring. For those who might be a little nervous going up those stairs to the lookout, there is a picnic table nearby where you can rest, just be sure to ask the rest of the group to take lots of pictures so you can enjoy the view from the lookout as well. Children, and dogs on leashes, are welcome! For more on the hike: www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/heybrook-lookout

Meet at the church parking lot at 9am to carpool. It will take a little over an hour to drive to the trailhead. Please pack a lunch and don't forget other essentials:

- water
- rain gear (even if it's sunny in Seattle)
- basic first aid kit
- sun screen

For more on the ten essentials, please visit: www.wta.org/go-outside/trail-smarts/ten-essentials

The best estimate for a return time is 1:30-2pm. If you plan to attend, please let Margaret know (we don't want to leave anyone behind!) and if you can drive, how many passengers you can take: margaretwetter@comcast.net.



EarthCare Retreat

We had a great time at the beach! 26 of us, including 6 kids, participated in the EarthCare retreat and Beach Clean Up. We cleaned up bags and bags of trash from the beach. We also enjoyed fellowship with each other over meals and viewed the documentary Plastic Paradise about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. A worship service at St. John's Chapel by the Sea in Moclips, WA with special music offered by Pastor Gretchen rounded out the weekend. Thank you to Margaret Wetter for volunteering to plan this fun and educational retreat weekend. We learned, enjoyed fellowship and worship with each other, and experienced beautiful Pacific Beach! Keep on the look out for opportunities to participate in a Beach Clean-Up next year!



Bike to School Day

Wednesday, May 9

Pastor Gretchen will be out on the streets to bless bicycles and their riders as they ride to and from school in the morning and afternoon. Once again, we'll have oranges, water and protein bars on hand for hungry riders!

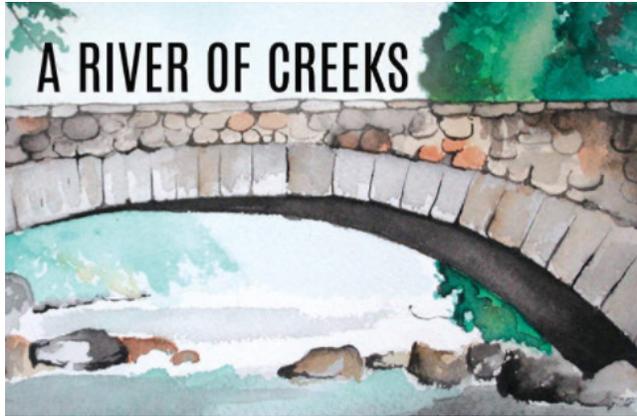
Bike to Work Day

Friday, May 18

Pastor Kathy will be out on the streets to bless bicycles and their riders as they ride to and from work during the morning and evening commute hours. We'll have oranges, water and protein bars on hand, too!



COMMUNITY



Madonnas Book Group

Sunday, May 6 ~ 5pm

We will meet to discuss [A River of Creeks](#) by Kerry Grande. Fun fact: Kerry Grande is Barb Dougherty's cousin. The location is to be determined. Contact Margaret Wetter (margaretwetter@comcast.net) if you have any questions.



Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, May 2 ~ 7am

Patty's Egg Nest (9749 Holman Rd NW)

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



Community Cuisine

Sunday, June 10 ~ 2pm-4pm

Community Cuisine is moving to every other month, the second Sunday from 2ish to 4ish. All are welcome. Our next gathering will be June 10. Lots of time to choose the recipe you want to make in the church kitchen and exchange with friends. Then, enjoy a whole variety of entrees later at home. ALL are welcome. No cooking skill or experience necessary!!

Life Masters (Seniors)

by: Ellen Arrington

Friday, May 11 ~ 11:30am

Fun, educational and local event: Join the Life Masters on our visit to the new Nordic Heritage Museum on May 11th. Meet at the church at 11:30am with a paper bag lunch and we'll car pool down after eating. The cost for tickets is \$15. We would like a firm commitment to attend (sign up). Please send your commitment to Nancy OldenKamp as soon as possible. This should be an interesting time to see the new museum and expand our knowledge. We hope to see you there.



Dear Pastor Hawks,
Thank you for your call after hearing of my dad, Lewis, passing away. And thank you for the many years of friendship and ministry you provided to both of my parents. They loved your church and were always proud to tell me about the many good and exciting things the community was doing. I'm so happy they found such a positive church community. Please pass my thanks and good wishes on to the congregation. Take care.

-Tina
Lew Robert's Daughter

2018 Synod Gatherings: Who is My Neighbor?

June 2 at Saint Andrew's, Bellevue
June 9 at Bethlehem, Marysville
8:30am - 4:30pm

In lieu of a traditional Synod Assembly business meeting, we will gather for conversation, learning, worship, and engagement around the theme, "Who is My Neighbor?" There will be three forum times featuring 16+ topics to help us discover and explore what it means to be a neighbor. There is no limit on the number of attendees per congregation, so we encourage you to send as many members as possible. The two events will be nearly identical, so choose the date and location that works best for you.

Forum topics range...

- from global music to earth ministry;
- from congregational hospitality to community partnerships;
- from listening to leadership;
- from human trafficking to being ally and advocate for our neighbors of different
- color, orientation, economic status, faith, or nationality.

More information may be found at www.lutheransnw.org/2018-Synod-Gatherings.
Cost is \$40/person, includes materials & lunch.
Registration will be open April 2 - May 15.



Eating Dinner with our Muslim Neighbors

Saturday, May 5 ~ 5:30pm
Idris Mosque
1420 NE Northgate Way
Seattle, WA 98125

Getting to know our neighbors has never been so delicious - so much amazing food and flavors! We respond to the rise in organized Islamophobia through solidarity with our Muslim neighbors - it's as simple as shared meals and relationship. Save the date for the next mosque potluck, Saturday, May 5th at 5:30pm.

Tuesdays with The Girls

by: Steven Rystrom, a member serving in Hungary for Young Adults in Global Mission

Friends have I told you about a really wonderful place called the Élim?



The Élim (pronounced “ay-leem”) is like a nursing home for women with physical and mental disabilities. It’s a charity run by the Lutheran Church in Hungary and named for an oasis where the Israelites camped in the book of Exodus. A place of refuge.

My mentor Erzsébet first brought me here in September. Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) have volunteered here for 6 years before me. The Élim is home to about 30 residents collectively known as “The Girls”. They are all ages. The youngest is about 14, and the oldest is 67. There is a chapel, a dining hall, a living room with couches and a tv, all lined with very cozy bedrooms. Many of the girls use wheelchairs, though not all. The people here all look a little different and communicate in ways I’m not as used to.

The first time though, I was nervous. As soon as I walked in I was gripped with anxiety. I was anxious a lot back then. Still, it was different. It reminded me of my preschool which was also at a nursing home. Cheery pictures and art were everywhere but I still heard people howling from down the hall. The word asylum sprang to mind. I’ve never been in one, but it’s not a word you associate with anything good. Now I think I’d say... sanctuary. There’s walls, but it’s not a prison. It’s a safe place.

I think in the US we tend to be a lot more germophobic and uncomfortable with natural human bodies. We hide people that look different to avoid being uncomfortable. My first time in the Élim I felt like this. You can smell people, and a few poopy diapers.

It’s funny; I’m used to it now, but the first few times it really filled me with actual dread. I didn’t want to walk down those halls with their strange smells and sounds. I was scared, but of course I didn’t want to be rude.

Erzsébet isn’t phased in the least. Her church is the main sponsor of this home so the Pastors visit often and are involved with the fundraising activities. After we left she asked if I was afraid. I said yes, although I added that I was also embarrassed to be afraid. She said it was normal the first time, but “God has set these people to live among us”.

A week after my first day the students from the Roma College came to visit too. Many of them are studying to be nurses, teachers, medical professionals, and midwives. Some of the students have been here before.

They have a really good time! Others, like me, can’t help but be a little shocked. It tell my friend Péter that the first time here can be uncomfortable. We take all the girls to a park nearby, and then get cake! I hear it’s a once a year treat for them.



The routine:

Every Tuesday I show up at ten. I buzz at the gate and someone inside lets me in. One of the girls is actually the door guard. Often it's Nelli. She sits at a stool next to the phone with her coloring book. Her mom works here.

Edit (like Edith!) is one of the directors and also fluent in English. She sends me to help another staff member, Gabrielle (Gabi), escort some of the girls to their creative class – Arts and Crafts!! Gabi and I both speak some German – we get to talk on a level playing field! We bundle up the girls in snuggies and we wheel, guide, or walk with the girls ten minutes to the craft building.

For a long time we had an hour where about 12 of the girls would work on painting, collages, stitching, duplos, or just coloring! Some of the crafts they made get sold at the Christmas market! Mostly jars with angels and nativity scenes painted on them.

After creative hour it's time for the girls to have lunch. From noon to one I get to hang out in the living room and sing songs for them. I have a Hungarian book of churchy songs. I actually know a lot of them from camp, but with Hungarian words! One girl, Szilvi, gets so excited when she sees me it reminds me of footage of Beatles fans in the 60's. They're a fantastic audience. I play through my open mic set too, but if I play Hungarian songs the girls and the staff know them and can sing along. Their favorite is Kumbaya, in Hungarian (valaki így kiált, jöjj, Uram!)

It took a few trips but I've gotten really comfortable (and joyful!) here. This is a safe and loving place. The Girls are just about the most kind and non-judgmental people I have ever met. We all kinda get to be children. Vivien is always happy to see everyone. She loves high fives. Actually they all love high fives. Kati likes to speak German to me, and always wants me to write math problems for her. The oldest resident is in our class too, her name is Maria, but everyone calls her Bimbo. Bimbo is 67 and likes to sing

along with me, even when she doesn't know the words. She's got a lot of old lady confidence, and will nod approvingly when she likes something

Since New Year's Gabi asked me to start teaching English, at about a kindergarten level. This is a new one for me. Singing songs has been the biggest hit. That and trying to have routines. One of my tendencies as a teacher is to try to teach too much too fast. We go slow, and repeat. I worry it's not enough, but then God says "dude, chill." Sometimes I listen.

Now it's April Tuesdays are the freaking best. I absolutely love being with The Girls, and they have always been welcoming, as have the staff.

They remember a lot of the English and songs I've taught them. They're good learners. Hajné is always determined and repeats the sounds until she can say the words, even when she's frustrated. She reminds me of my friend Mark somehow. We sing songs we made up like "I'm HAPPY today/Én boldog vagyok ma" and "What's your favorite color?/Mi a kedvenc színe?". It's helped my Hungarian a lot. I'll try to make a recording.

Only women live here, but lately we've had some BOYS join us for creative class, from the neighborhood. Sándor is pretty good at English lessons. János is just a very gentle person.

Then I get to have lunch with the staff. The food here is very Hungarian and super delicious. there's always soup. And then usually some lentil gravy with chicken. It's superb.

The previous YAGM that have served at my same site have told me how much they love the Élim and now I understand why. I'm really really grateful to the staff for letting me come and be here with The Girls.

So, if you ever find yourself in Nyíregyháza, Hungary. Ask nicely and you might get to meet some of my favorite people in the world.

Much love,
Steven



Member Highlight: Carolyn Swanson

Depending on your age, how does 58 years old sound to you? That was my age when my husband Don and I joined Our Redeemer's. Now, I just hit 80. This picture shows me ready to be a flower girl. Remember the curling iron? I was very indignant when the bride asked if I could stay up that late! Goodness, I was 3!



I began life in Chicago, surrounded by Norwegian-speakers. Every once in awhile they'd remember my Irish/German mother (Irene O'Neill) who understood not a word.

I was asked to describe my religious background. My first church was Ebenezer, a branch of the Haugianer Lutheran Church from Norway. To say their views were of a

pietistic nature would be putting it mildly. My memories of that church were the huge crucifix hanging in the altar area, the choir processing down the aisle, their "pocketbooks" swinging, the robe-less pastor preaching scary things into my young mind.

We left Chicago when Dad took a youth and choir ministry call to Minneapolis. It was the first of many "new" homes that my mom, sister, and I had. God got him to the vicinity of Luther Seminary, and my father, who vehemently declared he was not going to be a minister like his two brothers, entered the Seminary. My sister and I became "pastor's kids", and my dear sweet mother became a pastor's wife.





Lisbon, Illinois gave us our first taste of country life, the parsonage next to a field with cows! Sports saved me from that difficult life change. We used dried cow manure as bases for softball. I could make baskets from the middle of the floor! Then God said, "enough of that" — "I'll expose you all to a very different culture, one that will shock you." That would be Teaneck, 5 miles outside of New York City. As we drove up to the parsonage, there was a woman in slacks, smoking a cigarette! Suddenly, I was faced with lipstick! I remedied that, however, by using red M & M's. I went from a two-room classroom of 8 to a high school class of 800. To say our "tent" expanded would be putting it mildly. It was a hard place to be, but an important one.

My goals changed when we took a trip west, and I fell in love with Pacific Lutheran College (now Univ.). To earn money, I worked after high school for 1 ½ years in NYC for Standard Oil. My office-- 30 Rockefeller Plaza.

Another surprise! While at PLC, my dad accepted a call to Burlington Lutheran. There I met my husband, Don, and our first child Karen (Lee) was born. My husband then was transferred to the Seattle Darigold

office. But, wait! My Dad, at about the same time, received and accepted a call to Crown Lutheran in Seattle. There our son Keith was born. We left Crown soon after my father retired.

Our Redeemer's was the first church where my father was not my pastor. I no longer needed to be afraid of hurting him by what I might say; I could speak my mind. So, I do. My passion is to study the Bible because it is a living story, one in which we will continue into eternity. Many years ago, Pastor Kathy asked me to teach the Wednesday morning study; I joyfully and humbly accepted. That there is a group of 12-14 folks sitting around the table in the library each Wednesday to share the study with me is total blessing. Our Redeemer's provides me with sermons that feed me and music that fills me. This will be my last church; I saved the best 'till last.

I'm more than out of space. I can't leave my 6 grandchildren out! My daughter-in-law Clarice! I love and respect each of them and their talents. I should mention working for FDA for 26 years, having given up gladly public-school teaching. Then there's Ireland! That all must be another story.



MILESTONES

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Robert Wishon	12	Ed Woodfield	23	Lynn Smith
2	Jennifer Holt	13	Shelbe Kukowski	24	Kristin Lao
4	Victoria Hunter	13	Ernie Templin	25	Emilie Purvine
4	Lena Rindler	15	Kristi Dwight	28	Rylie Chabot
5	Angela Beranek	15	Jean Hall	28	Matteo Lowe
5	Gail Kinner	15	Mick McDonald	28	Colin Neu
5	Alyson Sundal	15	Ashley Olson	29	Christine Anderson
6	Megan Gleeson	16	Jodi Somm	29	Jamie Baits
7	Erin Miller	17	Henrik Meyer	29	Mary Mangold
8	Carolyn Davis	18	Steve Kaimmer	29	Megan Richmond
9	Kim Smith	19	Linda Carbone	30	David Neu
10	Margaret Berg	20	Dianna Simmonds	31	Shirley Holt
10	Joe Giesa	21	Brian Butler	31	Jerry Nebel
11	Anita Lewis	21	Elaine Stevens	31	Olivia Mae Rallo
12	Logan McCarthy Fredericks	22	Gabby Chabot	31	PJ Wallstrom
12	AJ Schoolcraft	23	Kathy Hendricks		
		23	Eric Running		

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR...

Those turning 90+:

June Pfeiffer, who was born on May 11, 1926, turning 92 years old!

The life of:

Lew Roberts, who passed away on March 26th at the age of 86.

Thelma Hoveland, who passed away on March 26th at age 97.

Susan Lundli, who passed away on March 26th at age 67.

The birth of:

Caroline Joy Baginski, born on April 11th, 7lbs., 5 oz., 18.5 inches long. Mom is Christine Biermann and Dad is James Baginski. She has a big brother Charlie who is 2+ years old.

Photo Directory Update

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

MAY 2018

ourredeemers.net/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SUNDAYS: 9am - Informal Worship 11am - Traditional Worship		1	2 Office Closed* 7am Men's Breakfast 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 6pm National Youth Gathering Planning 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir	3 345pm Staff Meeting 6pm Centering Prayer and Meal 7pm Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal	4 8am-3pm Lutheran World Relief Ingathering 130pm Folders	5 8am-12pm Lutheran World Relief Ingathering 9am EarthCare Hike 9am Traditional Worship Team Meeting 530pm Mosque Potluck
6 EARTH CARE SUNDAY 10am Bike to Church Blessing & Parade 5pm Madonnas Book Group	7 9am Quilters	8	9 Bike to School Blessing 9am Executive Committee 10am Staff Meeting 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir 7pm Confirmation Fun Event	10 6pm Centering Prayer 7pm Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal 7pm Social Justice Reading Group	11 1130pm LifeMasters 130pm Folders	12
13 Emmaus Visitors Recognition Lutheran World Relief Speaker	14 9am Quilters	15 630pm Church Council Bible Study and Meeting	16 10am Staff Meeting 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir	17 6pm Centering Prayer 7pm Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal	18 Bike to Work Blessing 130pm Folders	19 5 PM ANNUAL CELEBRATION & AUCTION 
20 PENTECOST & MUSIC SUNDAY! 5pm Ballard Sunday Dinner	21 9am Quilters	22 7pm Theology on Tap	23 10am Staff Meeting 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir	24 6pm Centering Prayer 7pm Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal	25 130pm Folders	26
27 10am Sandwich Sunday 1230pm Social Justice Team Meeting	28 Office Closed MEMORIAL DAY  9am Quilters	29	30 10am Staff Meeting 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 630pm Junior Choir 7pm Adult Choir	31 6pm Centering Prayer 7pm Informal Music Ensemble Rehearsal		

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



2400 NW 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98117
www.ourredeemers.net
206-783-7900

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

return service requested

WEEKLY WORSHIP

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

**OUR REDEEMER'S
CELEBRATION & AUCTION**

Saturday, May 19 ~ 5pm-8pm

Everyone is invited!

- NO admission charge!
- KID friendly!
- LIVE music!
- TWO food trucks to choose from!
- TRIVIA games and prizes!
- AMAZING live auction items!

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.