

SEPTEMBER 2018

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

TheVisitor



living generously

A COMMUNITY IN THE MODEL OF CHRIST

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COVER: Some of the youth at Camp Lutherhaven.

INSIDE COVER: Marching in the 4th of July parade at Holden Village.



Our community, our calling.



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

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FROM THE PASTOR...



Take a look at these faces. All of the people in this picture have just spent 6 days without screens, without video games, and without internet. All of the people in this picture have eaten meals together at the same times, sung songs together, hiked in the woods together, and met some new people. All of the people in this picture have learned something new about everyone else in this picture, in particular, they learned something new about themselves.

This is camp. It is sweaty, and dusty. It is full of teaching about the Ten Commandments and how God wants us to care for one another. There is much swimming, and climbing over rocks and trees. On this trip, there was trepidation about health and communication for one of our campers. But despite that, there was SO much laughter and fun. No one wanted to miss out on anything. On the last day, my little four year old looked up at me with his big hopeful eyes and said, "Momma. Let's never leave. Let's stay here. I want to be here all the time." It was SACRED. Holy. Important. Deeply valuable time with God in creation.

And you may be saying to yourself, "That is so good for those young people. It is so important for them to go out in the woods and experience ... that stuff." Listen. I'm here to tell you that regardless of your age or ability or family status or

income or experience - you could have a PhD or be just starting preschool, you could be 9 or 90, you could be winging it or in a wagon - getting away from your routine and being with people is important for EVERYONE. Eating communal meals and singing songs and hiking in the dust is important for every soul.

Our culture has put out a ruling that we should be self-sufficient, and we never have to see another person if we don't want to. You can shop, eat, and work all in your own home. But God has said that it is good for us to be together, and that wherever two or more are gathered God is with us, and whenever two or more are gathered in the woods, God will kick back, pick up the banjo, and sing with us. (I made up that last part, but I think it's true.)

This fall, I invite you to get out more. More specifically, I encourage you to invite God in more. Into your life, into your home, into your heart. Come to the new Family Faith Formation (for all ages) between services and meet some folks from that other service. Go on a retreat! Holden is coming up again next summer, and the women's retreat, and a family retreat this October. Hang out with the Life Masters, join one of the book groups, or do some social justice work with one of the many opportunities available here at church. Invite those nice looking folks that you see each week and say hello to after worship over to your house for a meal and get to know them! Let every thing you do be an opening for God to work in our hearts! Let us love one another and live in grace, mercy, forgiveness, and justice. Basically, let's make camp happen all the time!



Love,

Pastor Gretchen.



LIVING GENEROUSLY

MONEY IS STRESSFUL

By Stephanie Fowler

Discussions about finances are, I believe, stressful regardless of where one falls on any measure of socio-economic status. The stresses include: assessing our needs and wants and realizing the wants will once again have to wait, the challenge to not compare or assume things about the finances or priorities of our neighbors, worries about how to keep pace with our goals of saving and giving in an increasingly expensive city, decisions on how much of one's estate to leave to family, the church, etc. These struggles are all very real. Whatever your stress today, you are not alone.

As Christians we know of God's many promises, promises which include roadmaps to fuller, and in at least some ways, more peaceful lives. We are taught how to regard money, it is a tool not an object. Money is one of many tools we are given to use how we chose. We can use money to glorify God, or to glorify ourselves. For me that is a brutal truth, a stressful truth. I continually fall short in this area and with a spouse, son, and daughter on the way, the stakes only seem higher. I must

continue to prayerfully push myself to trust that God will provide for all, and to view the financial blessings Morgan and I encounter as one of the ways God provides not only for us and our children, but also for our church, our neighbors in need, and our community. Trust in God's unfailing willingness to forgive me when I do, inevitably, fall short helps relieve some of my stress, and gives me the motivation to continue trying.

A group of us are venturing to engage ourselves and the congregation in conversations about generosity, and the many ways we are called to be generous with our time, talents, skills, essences, and money. Each month for the next year the newsletter will include an article, like this one, which focuses on a different aspect of generosity. It is our hope that these articles will resonate with you in some way, and provide a starting point for conversation and contemplation. As we enter this endeavor we know that being asked to stretch yourself, to find more to give in any of these ways is stressful. You are not alone. Together we can inhale deeply, pray, and discover how Our Redeemer's can become an even greater asset to us and our neighbors.

THANKS TO YOU....

Our Redeemer's completed our 2017-2018 fiscal year \$18,148 ahead of expenses, in the first year we were finally fully-staffed!

This is possible because YOU are living generously!

We continue our plan to use (decreasing) portions of the Calvary Legacy Fund each year. In 2017-2018, that amount was \$60,000... in 2018-2019 it will be \$45,000; Shifting responsibility for an additional \$15,000 to congregational giving to our ministry operating budget.



Financial Peace University Is Back!

By Don Boelter, Parish Administrator

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know about a great program we will be offering again this fall—Financial Peace University. Last year, 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. I mentioned, at the suggestion of several church administrator colleagues, Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University (“FPU”) as one way we could make this goal a reality at Our Redeemer’s.

Last winter, Our Redeemer’s offered this course on how to manage the money God has given us for the first time. Topics covered during the nine weekly sessions include Saving Money, Communicating About Money, and Unleashing the Power of Generous Giving. Twelve people attended the initial offering of FPU at Our Redeemers—six members of the congregation, and six members of the community who signed up through the FPU 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.”

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.

Because of the success of the first class, we will be offering another round of FPU classes on nine consecutive **Wednesdays, September 12 through November 7 at 6:30pm in the church library.** Member Latife Neu will be facilitating the class, and childcare will be provided. Cost is \$119 per family (can attend as a single, partnered, or married household).

Please contact me with any questions or information on how to sign up. (206-783-7900 x107, administrator@ourredeemers.net)



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

REHEARSALS FOR THREE CHOIRS BEGIN: Wednesday, September 12

Our Redeemer's is excited to begin the program year with rehearsals for our three choirs! All rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 12.

Youth Choir (formerly Middle School Choir) - for girls and guys in 6th-9th grade - singing and playing hand bells - Wednesdays from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Jr. Choir - for boys and girls in Kindergarten through 5th grade - singing and treats - Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Adult Choir - high school students and adults of all ages - variety of music styles to sing, known to include laughter in rehearsals! - Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Singing is a wonderful way to meet friends, experience meaningful music, have fun, and praise God! You are invited to add your voice - please join us on September 12!

CENTERING PRAYER

Thursdays, 6-6:30pm

A quiet pause in your busy life.

No experience necessary.

ALL ARE WELCOME



Office Closed

Monday, September 3

--ALSO--

**There is NO midweek worship
Wednesday, September 5.**

BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION!



September 2018 Vision-Aligned Building (VAB) Update

The VAB Team continued to meet on a weekly basis during the month of July. Further conversations and meetings with project architect and contractor took pace in order to vet possible design approach alternatives suggested by the Team in light of the Substantial Alteration determination by the City of Seattle on the last set of concept plans.

Once the team, in consultation with our architect and contractor, has determined the best approach to move forward, a Congregational informational meeting will be scheduled to present possible plan revisions and financing alternatives.

In case you missed it, please see last month's update in the The Visitor which featured a detailed timeline of VAB activity during this calendar year. Don Boelter, Parish Administrator (administrator@ourredeemers.net, 206-783-7900 x107) can provide you with a copy of that information and will continue to provide updates to the Church Council at its monthly meetings and to the Congregation via the monthly The Visitor and fellowship hall bulletin board space.

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



FAITH FORMATION

WHY ARE BIG CHANGES COMING TO SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS FALL?

(And what can I do to help?!)

by Pastor Kathy Hawks

**Family Faith Formation Happens between Services,
Starting September 9 @ 10AM.**

We all received Pastor Gretchen's letter with details about exciting changes to our faith formation ministry. It will be a work in progress for a while, so patience and support will be much appreciated, but the need for change was pressing. This new format allows:

- Intergenerational relationships and learning.
- Worship will become part of children's "DNA" and perspective on life.
- Families can worship at either 9AM or 11AM.
- Worshipers at both services can get to know our children, and be known by them.
- Pastor Gretchen can offer her musical and kid-spell-binding gifts.
- Brings children's ministry out into view where we can all see it, participate in it, and appreciate it.
- Widens the pool of willing and available volunteers to include 11AM worshipers and those who love kids, but really don't want to miss worship.

But you LOVED taking care of Sunday School and worship in just one hour? We know. We know. But, compare it to the amount of time you invest most other things in a week. (Exercise, sports, Facebook, for example.) Is it really such a huge thing to invest an additional hour to ground yourself and your family in God, and in this amazing community? Some things TAKE energy; others GIVE us energy. Our prayer is that this will GIVE you a kind of energy, peace, and perspective it's tough to come by.

Worried about squirmy kids ruining your own worship? We don't judge; we get it! Along with the quiet toys corner in both worship spaces, we'll work to have an activity outside of the worship space for kids during the sermon.

So, let's all do this together. Participating! Sharing feedback and ideas. Keeping an open mind. Helping out where each of us can. God is worth it! Our kids are worth it! And we will all be blessed.

For more info, check out the copy of Pastor Gretchen's letter on the bulletin board. Or give her a call.

Faith Formation Changes

by Pastor Gretchen Mertes

You are invited to be part of the new Family Faith Formation program at Our Redeemer's. Families of all ages, shapes and sizes are welcome to participate in our new social-justice oriented faith formation opportunity between services in the Fellowship Hall. Each month, we will be focusing on a different area of social justice with music, story-telling, Bible lessons, and hands-on service events. We are inviting different partner organizations from around Seattle to come and be with us, helping us to understand the needs in our community, as well as teaching us what they do. This is an amazing opportunity for us to learn, grow, and serve together as an intergenerational faith family!

Here's how it works each month:

Week 1: We hear the Biblical background on the social justice topic at hand, and break into small groups to learn from each other and dig a little deeper together.

Week 2: We hear the stories from our community partners and our own passionate leaders, and break into small groups to share our own stories and questions.

Week 3: We DO something useful to help build up justice! Sometimes on-site, sometimes off-site!

Week 4: We participate in worship, bringing our learning and stories back to God in offering.

Here's the monthly overall topics:

September: Education

October: Homelessness

November: Hunger

December: The Arts

January: Immigration/Refugees

February: Racism

March: The Environment

April: Water

May: Human Rights/LGBTQIA Rights

We need individuals and families to help volunteer each month to help with set up, education, small group leadership, and all kinds of other good stuff! We are sincerely hoping that this is an intergenerational If you're interested, particularly in an individual month, please contact Cara or Pastor Gretchen and we will get you up and running! This is going to be an amazing and uplifting and fun way to teach our whole church family about the deep connection between our faith and the world. This new program replaces our "Kids' Church" program. With questions and concerns, or to volunteer, please contact Pastor Gretchen or Cara Kiggins.



Start Up Sunday!

Sunday, September 9

Join Our Redeemer's as we launch into fall programming! From backpack blessings, to School Kit assemblies for Lutheran World Relief, to the roll-out of our new Family Faith Formation-- explore faith and justice!

NEW! Family Faith Formation
launch time at 10:10!



Confirmation Orientation for 7th and 8th Graders WITH PIZZA!

Wednesday, September 12 ~ 6:30pm

Calling all 7th and 8th graders and your parents! Confirmation classes this fall are changing schedule! We will now be meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm at church. Confirmation Orientation is on Wednesday September 12 at 6:30pm in the youth room! You will receive a full calendar of all events, a list of the great stuff you get to do, and a chance to meet each other and all your awesome teachers. Please RSVP with Pastor Gretchen so we know how much pizza to order!

Confirmation for 9th Graders

Sunday, September 9 ~ 12:15pm

All 9th graders expecting to be confirmed in October (and their parents) are invited to attend a meeting on Sunday September 9th at 12:15pm with Pastor Gretchen. All the details will be revealed, and details laid out. Please RSVP that you will be able to attend!



Sunday Sermon Friends

The Idea: You save frazzled parents from the wiggles of their children by providing a 15-20 minute fun-time in the library during the sermon. It could be art, games, songs, adventures around the building, science experiments, crafts, music, a dance party - whatever your heart can imagine.

The Commitment: You sign up for three weeks and you're done. OF COURSE you can do it more than once, but I'm not pushing my luck.

The Resources: We have an amazing craft cave with tons of fun stuff. There is also a small budget for amazing ideas. And there is all of you! If this is an adventure that you can get behind, please contact Pastor Gretchen (pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net) or call the church.



Sprouts

Calling all three and four year olds! Sprouts is a special class designed just for preschool aged children. This class is a hoot for the little ones. Find us on Sundays during the 9:00am service!



Young Families Group: Baptism Class

Saturday, September 15 ~ 9:30am

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



Young Adults Thinktank

Monday, September 10 ~ 7pm ~ The Dane (8000 15th Ave. NW)

Join Pastor Gretchen for a brainstorming session about life together at Our Redeemer's. Young Adult life could look like many things!

It could be Bible study.

It could be retreats.

It could be beer tasting.

It could be a jam band/drum circle
(but if it is, you're on your own, dude).

It could be hiking.

It could be a regularly scheduled potluck.

It could be cribbage tournaments.

It could be lots of things.

If you're interested in helping figure out these good things, please come to the Dane (8000 15th Ave NW) on Monday Sept 10th at 7pm, and we'll start laying out some sweet plans.



Theology on Tap is Back!

Tuesday, September 25 ~ 7pm
Hale's Brewery (4301 Leary Way NW)

Theology on Tap is back! Please join us on Tuesday, September 25th at 7:00 at Hale's Brewery. Our topic will be, "Reconciling Your Faith When Bad Things Happen." Theology on Tap is a great way to meet with other members of Our Redeemer's in a casual setting do discuss theological topics. We hope to see you there!

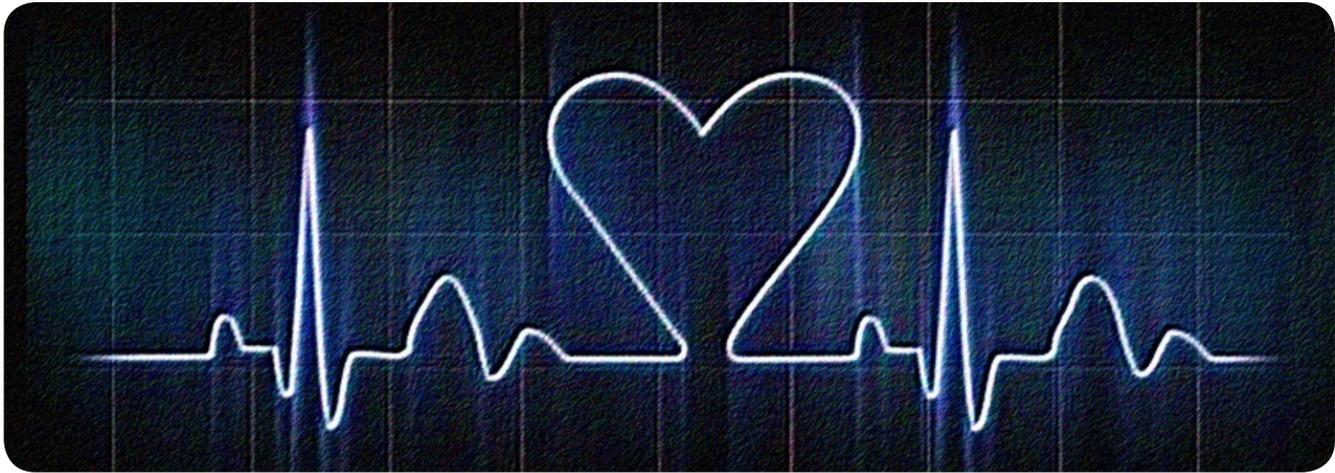


Holden Village Save the Date

July 14-20, 2019

ADULT FORUMS ~ SUNDAYS THIS FALL!

Sundays, 10am in the Library ~ September 16 through October 7



POWER. A USER'S GUIDE

Power has a spotty past, and a mixed reputation. How does God use power? Jesus?
And what could that mean for how we exercise the power we have?

Sept. 16: Power: What IS it? What is it NOT?

We'll look at different kinds of power, including authority, charisma, force, coercion. And we'll explore some dynamics of power.

Sept. 23: God's Power: ...For thine is the kingdom, and the glory, and the POWER...

The stories of God's deeds of power. The traditions of Jubilee, monarchy and the first commandment: You shall have no other gods before me.

Sept. 30: Jesus' Power: Birth, Ministry, Death and Resurrection

What was Jesus' power and how did he use it? When did he choose not to use power? Why?

Oct. 7: Our Power: To Those Have, More Will Be Given

What power do we have? As followers of Christ, how shall we use our power? Can power be a godly thing?



LOOKING AHEAD:

October 14, 28, November 4-18

THE ECONOMY OF LOVE: Creating a Community of Enough

Five very brief videos inviting us into considering a standard of living based on God's kingdom gifts of enough, rather than the size of our income. Narrated by the amazing Shane Claiborne.

- Oct. 14: Tension
- Oct. 28: Enough
- Nov. 4: Vulnerable
- Nov. 11: Filled
- Nov. 18: Practice



Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation

by: Carolyn Swanson

What: Bible Study

When: Wednesday, September 12, 2018
10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

Where: Church Library

With: You, Carolyn, Dr. Cary* and The Great Courses (30-minute DVD)

Why: To stimulate, challenge, and reassure us through the Gospel. If you think, as I did, you already know all about Martin Luther, this course will prove otherwise.

Course Arrangement:

- 1) Luther, the man, and his struggle
- 2) The course of the Reformation and its effect on Europe (and us)
- 3) Luther's views on the sacraments, predestination, role of the state, Jews, etc.

"Luther, please, please stop writing!" said Frederick the Wise. He pleads with Martin Luther to "lay low" to prevent his execution. But it is to no avail. One hundred twenty volumes later, a third of all books published in German are Luther's.

Why the frenetic writing? Because Luther had found what he was desperately looking for—good news in Scripture. Luther was terrified most of his young life, not of Hell but of God!

* Dr. Phillip Cary is Professor of Philosophy at Eastern University and Scholar-in-Residence at the Templeton Honors College. His specialty is the history of Christian thought, with particular focus on Augustine and Luther. Dr. Cary explains Martin Luther's unique relationship to words. For Luther, words are indicative of a spiritual conflict between the truth of God's Word and the lies of the devil.

Dr. Cary is a member of the Anglican Church. He puts Anglicanism forward as a good option for those who are torn between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. This makes sense, he says, since Anglicanism is usually portrayed as Catholic in ritual and Protestant in belief.

Dr. Cary comments: *"We cannot ignore the evils and errors in Luther's works, but we can love and appreciate him for the truth and goodness he does offer the Christian Church."* Dr. Cary describes this complex relationship: *"We must love him as a grown-up loves a glorious but deeply-flawed ancestor."*

As we come to grips with Martin Luther, we will also be coming to grips with our own salvation. Please consider spending 1 ½ hours in Bible Study this fall.

* Just One Candle: Advent 2018*

Day-by-Day:

Stories, Thoughts & Prayers from Our Redeemer's Community

Advent is a season of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. For many it is a time of high anticipation and joy; for others it's a time filled with memories of times past.

We are seeking members of our church who will share thoughts, memories and reflections about Bible verses which will be provided, related to this Advent.

WHAT?

- OUR SHARED AIM: To share our experiences and thoughts relating to Advent.

WHY?

- In this way, we deepen our community and our faith -- together.
- Our goal isn't to publish a book or show how wise or faithful we are!
- Gain insight and joy in exploring and sharing your own Advent journey.

HOW?

- Be on the lookout for an online sign-up or sign up on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board for the passage that sparks you.
- Share an experience that is specific, personal and had an impact on your faith.
- Try to link your experience(s) to the Bible verse.
- What does that verse mean to you?
- Very briefly! 2 to 3 paragraphs.

WHEN?

- Email your story to Communications Coordinator, Jonath Ochs (communications@ourredeemers.net), or turn it into the church office by November 1, 2018.

TRY THESE QUESTIONS:

- What specific situation does the verse make you think of? Who? Where?
- What thoughts were you having that were important?
- What feelings did the situation invoke?
- What impact did the situation have on your experience of Advent or more broadly, your connection to God.

Pastor Kathy, Jim Arnold, and Ellen Arrington are always available for questions or support!



SOCIAL JUSTICE / EARTH CARE

Social Justice Quarterly Meeting Report

On Sun. August 12th the Social Justice meeting participants lent their voice and vision to guide Our Redeemer's Social Justice Ministries. We discussed the projected \$12,000 of 3% funds in this coming fiscal year that the Social Justice meeting participants will determine where to direct in giving back to our local and global community.

Fiscal Year 2018-2019 recipients will include:

Local Hunger and Homelessness

- Sandwich Sundays
- Sleeping Bags for Thanksgiving Gifts
- Thanksgiving Community Dinner
- Ballard Food Bank
- Bridge Care Center
- Ballard Sunday Dinner

EarthCare

- Earth Ministry

Immigration and Refugees

- Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services

Global Hunger, Poverty, and Education

- Lutheran World Relief

Supporting our LGBTQIA+ siblings

- Pride March

Faith Community Voice in Local, State, and National Advocacy

- Faith Action Network
- Church Council of Greater Seattle

Save the date for the next meeting on Sun November 11th!

All are welcome to this quarterly meeting regardless of if you've participated in the past. Contact Cara (outreach@ourredeemers.net) for more information about future meetings!



God's Work, Our Hands!

Save the dates! You'll have three opportunities for acts of service in "God's work. Our hands." 2018.

September 9th: Fall Startup and School Kit Assembly for Lutheran World Relief

September 16th: Feed the hungry as an act of service at Ballard Sunday Dinner

September 23rd: Feed the hungry as an act of service at Ballard Sunday Dinner

God's Work Our Hands is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the larger Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

We work every day to make our community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together with the larger ELCA Church in September 2018!



Fall Start Up: Let's Build School Kits!

Sunday, September 9th ~ 10am
(between worship)

As we celebrate our Fall Start up and bless our kids on going back to school, let's also bless kids around the world through assembling school kits!

YOU CAN HELP! Join us to help assemble!

Our kits will go around the world, helping kids access the education they might otherwise not be able to.



x4



x1



x1



x1



x5



x5



x1



x1



x1

Purchase School Kit Supplies for Lutheran World Relief!

As back to school sales start popping up in stores over the summer, take advantage and purchase school kit items! If you're buying school supplies for your kids, purchase double and help another child access education.

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. School Kits contain the essential supplies to help children – and in some cases, adults – continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

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

Plastic

by Margaret Wetter
EarthCare Team Member



Plastic. It's everywhere. I recently attended SeafoodFest and while it was a delightful festival, with a lot of our neighbors having a very good time, I was sickened by the thousands of plastic water bottles I saw. Every food vendor had stacks of them and more than half the attendees I observed were carrying one. I would guess one in 25 had a reusable water bottle.

It's hard to enumerate all of the ways plastic has become integrated into our everyday lives. While there are many very good, important uses for plastic -- think medical applications, for example -- the main reason many of use plastic is simply for convenience. Everything is so much easier with plastic.

Recycling is not the answer for dealing with our plastic addiction-- only a small percentage of plastic is actually recycled, and then it is actually downcycled, remade as a lesser grade plastic each time until it can no longer be remade. As those of us who have been involved in beach cleanups know, plastic is covering our beaches, washing in from the oceans, harming marine life and breaking down to tiny bits that have integrated into our whole ecosystem.

Sometimes public policy forces us to change our habits. Here in Seattle we no longer get plastic bags from the grocery store, and now all straws must be compostable or reusable. (If you saw the turtle video, you'd know why.) But mostly, it's incumbent on us to change our habits on our own. So why not start with water bottles? It costs a little bit to purchase reusable bottles, and then you have to remember to use them -- changing a habit is hard! -- but what a difference it would make if we all stepped up to this one small thing.

Styrofoam & Electronics Recycling Event

Saturday, September 29th
10am-2pm

The EarthCare Team will be leading Our Redeemer's in doing our part to reduce plastic pollution with another styrofoam recycling event on Saturday, September 29th, 10am to 2pm. We'll be working alongside the youth as they conduct an electronics recycling event. The more volunteers we have for this event, the more smoothly it runs! If you can help out for an hour or two -- it's easy! it's fun! you get to meet great people! -- please email Margaret Wetter at margaretwetter@comcast.net.



EarthCare Hike

Saturday, October 6

Save the date for our next EarthCare Hike --
Saturday, October 6th, trail tba.

IN THE COMMUNITY:

Salish Sea Day of Action

Saturday, September 15th

From the north end of the Strait of Georgia to Puget Sound and Hood Canal, people are uniting their voices to tell the world and local decision makers that we demand protection for the Salish Sea bioregion.

The Salish Sea Day of Action is on September 15th, with many opportunities for you to be involved, including a Family Friendly Climate Vigil at Smith Cove Park.

International Coast Clean-up Day

September 15th

People around the world will head out to remove accumulated trash from their local shorelines and beaches. Together, we will document the types of debris entering our waterways in an effort to inform practical solutions to the global problem of marine trash. Go here for a map of local clean up locations, including one at Golden Gardens Park: tinyurl.com/y9buf78r

To register for participation in a local clean up, sign up through Puget SoundKeeper.

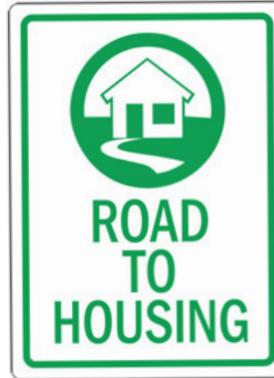
Sustainable Ballard Festival

Saturday, September 22nd ~

11am-4pm

Ballard Commons Park

This year's theme is "Find Your Path: Learn-Connect-Give-Grow. The Sustainable Ballard Festival is a fantastically fun opportunity to learn together, get inspired, and discover new ways to live more lightly on this Earth.



Road2Housing Is Up and Running!

The Road to Housing (R2H) Taskforce is pleased to announce not only have we established a partnership with a new case management

partner – the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle – but we're also welcoming new guests! To honor our guest's privacy and to give them space through the difficult life experiences they are undergoing we of course aren't individually introducing them to the Our Redeemer's community. However, knowing that we're welcoming new R2H guests can be a reminder to extend warm welcome and greetings to everybody we encounter at Our Redeemer's!

BACKGROUND ON THE R2H PROGRAM SET UP:

Urban League will be identifying potential guests, completing intake procedures and background checks, and providing case management while guests are parking in our lot. Our Redeemer's will continue to provide safe parking and access to a bathroom, shower, laundry, and kitchenette. We look forward to developing a strong partnership providing welcome, stability, and support to people living in their vehicles. In our excitement we're also remembering that this is a new partner and is a start-up again. We expect some challenges as we settle in just as we had five years ago starting up for the first time with our former partner. To learn more about Urban League visit <https://www.urbanleague.org/housing/>

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



Feed the Hungry TWICE in September: Ballard Sunday Dinner

Sunday, September 16th & 30th ~ 5pm

Ballard First Lutheran Basement

"I volunteer because I want to help provide for others. When the Bible says that the Lord will provide I don't think it means that food and shelter will just magically appear. It means that the Lord will find a way to get food and shelter to the people who need it. Ballard Sunday Suppers are one way that is being done and I want to help because I can." –current Ballard Sunday Dinner volunteer

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

We're serving two meals this month. We'll be enveloping our Ballard Sunday Dinner volunteer work into the ELCA Church Worldwide's September focus on service events, God's Work Our Hands.

Volunteer shifts available for both 9/16 and 9/30 include:

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

Sign up online: www.tinyurl.com/ballardsundaydinner



Make Sandwiches for Hungry Neighbors: Sandwich Sunday

Sunday, September 23 ~ 10am

We keep going through supplies each Sandwich Sunday due to the high volume of sandwiches (250 to 300 each time) we keep making -- which is AWESOME! Visit your favorite wholesale grocer and buy gargantuan amounts of:

- Sliced lunch meat
- Sliced cheese
- Sandwich bread
- Gloves for preparing sanitary food
- Sandwich baggies

The more supplies and the more hands we have, the more sandwiches we create to be gifts of God's Love to people experiencing the trauma of homelessness.



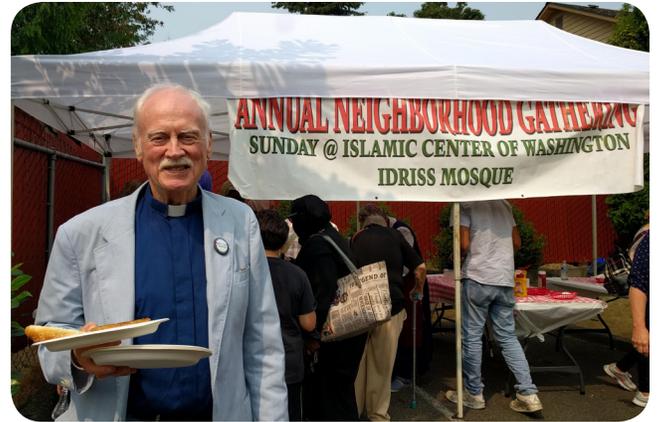
Social Justice Reading Group Discussion: Sabbath as Resistance, Saying No to the Culture of Now

Thursday, September 13th ~ 7pm ~ Library

The Social Justice Reading Group is reading: Sabbath as Resistance, Saying No to the Culture of Now by Walter Brueggemann. Brueggemann writes in the Preface of Sabbath as Resistance:

"I have come to think that the moment of giving the bread of Eucharist as gift is the quintessential center of the notion of Sabbath rest in Christian tradition. It is a gift! We receive in gratitude. Imagine having a sacrament named "thanks"! We are on the receiving end, without accomplishment, achievement, or qualification. It is a gift, and we are grateful! That moment of gift is a peaceable alternative that many who are 'weary and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care', receive gladly. The offer of free gift, faithful to Judaism, might let us learn enough to halt the dramatic anti-neighborliness to which our society is madly and uncritically committed. Fishbane concludes concerning the 'Lord of Peace', "This is dying within life for love of God. It is a divestment of will for God's sake – and the wonder of the world.'"

You're always welcome to join in these discussion regardless of if you've attended in the past or regardless even if you've read the book! Contact Cara (outreach@ourredeemers.net) with any questions.



BBQ at Idris Mosque

We had a great time at the 17th annual BBQ at Idris Mosque on August 12th! Good food and great company. We respond to the rise in organized Islamophobia through solidarity with our Muslim neighbors. It's as simple and as profound as shared meals and relationship.





COMMUNITY

Jodi Picoult

AUTHOR OF *LEAVING TIME*

small great things

a novel

Madonnas Book Group

TBD

Be on the lookout for info on the next Madonnas Book Group gathering. We will discuss Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult.



Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, September 5 ~ 7am

Patty's Egg Nest

9749 Holman Rd NW

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

Thank you Our Redeemer's!

I just received my REI gift card and am feeling overwhelmed by the generosity of this community! It has been my gift to serve as your Welcome Minister and Office Assistant! I have already purchased Keen Targhee III walking/hiking shoes! THANK YOU! I have enjoyed several walking adventures this summer and plan to do many more in the future. I may also purchase cross country skis, boots, and poles for winter skiing trips. I appreciate each of you and will think of you when I use my new equipment! I will see you at church and we will continue to be involved in social justice activities! I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer!

Many thanks and God's Peace to you all,

Nancy Oldenkamp





MILESTONES

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Robert Salnick	13	Judith Jager	23	Elizabeth Giesa
3	Kirsten Duke	13	Nicholas Sangrey	24	Lisa Glover
3	Craig Egbert	14	Gretchen Mertes	25	Lindsay Rindler
4	Paul Campbell	15	Linda Ellingboe	26	Janet Anderson
4	Kayla Moore	16	Joanne Bell	27	Lilja Kyoko See
4	Marilyn Schulze	16	Joni Duvall	27	David Hendricks
4	Olivia Evidon	17	Joe Lessard	28	Victoria Anderson
5	Indio Abdullah	17	Chris Lowe	28	Maryanne Dixon
6	Ashley Holt	20	Tim Hunter	29	Holly Mangold
6	Georgia Green	20	Phil Lotshaw	30	Anna Freyberg
7	Russ Huffstetter	21	Isaac Dovich	30	Jon Hanson
8	Phyllis Ellis	21	Stephen Ege		
8	Lucy Watkins	21	Eric Olson		
12	Genny Arredondo	21	Britni Chabot		
13	Linda Hintz	22	Haley Nyhus		

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.

SEPTEMBER 2018

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10am Traditional Worship	3 Labor Day Office Closed	4	5 Office Closed* 7am Men's Breakfast NO Wednesday Evening Worship	6 6pm Centering Prayer	7 130pm Folders	8 9am Traditional Worship Team Meeting
9 STARTUP SUNDAY! 10am Explore Faith and Justice Backpack Blessing 12:15pm Confirmation Orientation (9th grade)	10 9am Quilters 7pm Young Adults Thinktank	11	12 9am Executive Committee 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 6:30pm Jr. Choir 6:30pm Financial Peace 6:30pm Confirmation Orientation (7th/8th grade) 7pm Adult Choir	13 6pm Centering Prayer 7pm Social Justice Reading Group	14 12pm Life Masters 130pm Folders	15 9:30am Young Families Baptism Class
16 10am Adult Forum 5pm Ballard Sunday Dinner	17 9am Quilters	18 6:30pm Church Council Bible Study & Meeting	19 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 6:30pm Jr. Choir 6:30pm Financial Peace 7pm Adult Choir	20 6pm Centering Prayer	21 130pm Folders	22
23 10am Adult Forum 10am Sandwich Sunday	24 9am Quilters	25 7pm Theology on Tap	26 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 6:30pm Jr. Choir 6:30pm Financial Peace 7pm Adult Choir	27 6pm Centering Prayer	28 130pm Folders	29 10am-2pm Electronics & Styrofoam Recycling
30 10am Adult Forum 5pm Ballard Sunday Dinner						

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



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WEEKLY WORSHIP

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

WORSHIP
informal - 9am
traditional - 11am

STARTUP SUNDAY!

SEPTEMBER 9

Explore Faith & Justice
10am
All Ages Together!

Backpack Blessings!