

JUNE 2019

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

TheVisitor



heading out with hope



A COMMUNITY IN THE MODEL OF CHRIST

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COVER: A few events in the past month at Our Redeemer's: Bob Carlson baking for Art & Faith, Confirmation, Teacher in Residence: Professor Fred Niedner, and Guest Preacher: Vicar Elizabeth Peters.

INSIDE COVER: Sandy Box, Tricia Kloth, and Irma Gross hanging out at the Women's Retreat at Camp Indianola.



Our community, our calling.



- Katherine Hawks, Pastor
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director
- Shannon Beck, Interim Social Justice Coordinator
- Jonath Ochs, Communications Coordinator
- Katlin Dickinson-Laurence, Data Base & Front Office Assistant
- Ronda Andrews, Welcome Minister
- Hannah Wetter, Nursery Care Provider

FROM THE PASTOR...



You gave me a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip. -Psalm 18:36

There are so many sappy, obvious, sentimental things to say about June. I'll try to avoid them, but it's true. June is a month of commencements – of anniversaries, graduations, weddings, retirements, planned adventures, unplanned expeditions... you name it, it starts or ends in June.

While our young ones are thinking that this time of transition will never come, with the latest end-of-school date ever seen of June 27 (thanks to all that winter snow!), and with the weather looking more like January than June, it can seem like a time of never-ending waiting. Is it summer yet? Who's ready for Holden? Who's ready for VBS? But like any time of waiting, the transitional times can be trying, but are also vastly important. Here are a few things that are, and have been worth waiting for:

- At our synod assembly (annual regional gathering of ELCA people), we have just elected our first female bishop of the northwest washington synod, Pastor Shelley Bryan Wee. A beginning! A first! A transition from a bishop we know and love, to someone we don't know yet at all. It is something that is definitely timely, but also unexplored territory. A commencement, and an adventure. Our prayers are with her and her family in their transition to this new role.
- At a church level, we are looking at all kinds of new ideas. We have found and

are excited about partnering with a Faith Formation Consulting and Coaching firm called "Vibrant Faith," (www.vibrantfaith.org) and pleased to have our coach, Jim LaDoux, joining us at Holden Village for a time of listening and learning. There is an article with more information in this newsletter, by our team leader, Betsy McGregor.

- We are looking forward with our Vision Aligned Building project, with hope for renovating and improving our building to fully live into our common mission – "In the model of Christ, and for the life of the world, we are an inclusive, devoted, caring and spiritual community that accepts challenges, takes risks and grows." What an exciting time to be invested in and a part of the ministry of this congregation. I am thoroughly stoked to see this vision become a God-breathed, lived-in space.

Change can be hard and scary, but it can also be the greatest release and most significant times of learning that we experience in this life. In this month of transitions, waiting, and hope, I relish your prayers. Prayers for unity and listening, prayers for direction and continuity, prayers for peace, and prayers for that most hoped for thing... deep joy. L'chaim!



Pastor Gretchen

BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION!



Vision-Aligned Building (VAB) Update

As recounted in past issues of *The Visitor*, SHKS Architects and the VAB Team have been meeting on a regular basis since January developing an approach for Phase I of the building renovation project. It's been exciting to see the Team's ideas come to life in the architects designs and plans.

Phase I will prioritize the following areas of work:

- Life Safety Upgrades. Structural upgrades will allow the Sanctuary to be a safe gathering place.
- Renovate Sanctuary. The structural work goes hand-in hand with interior improvements to the Sanctuary, increasing use, accessibility, and beauty in the space.
- Remove Brick Volume. Removing the brick volume at the front of the building will make both the Sanctuary and Narthex entrance more visible, drawing people in from 85th Street and improving the connection to the neighborhood.
- Improve Small Gathering Spaces. With the brick volume removed, improving gathering spaces becomes an opportunity to make improvements to staff office space and add

a movable partition to the Fellowship Hall, accommodating classes, meetings, and church staff activities.

- New 1st Floor Restrooms. A new accessible, gender-neutral restroom will more adequately serve Sunday morning crowds.
- Exterior Site Accessibility. While the church is currently accessible from the 85th Street sidewalk a continuous accessible path from the parking lot is the next priority. This work would include landscape improvements.
- Basement Level Accessibility. This scope of work provides and accessible entrance to the basement from the east end of the site. This work could be moved to a later phase if necessary, as accessible spaces on the first floor are a higher priority.

More of the architects' work to date was shared at the May 19th informational potluck meeting with members of the VAB Team.

The VAB Team is: Mike Hlastala, Pastor Kathy Hawks, Jim Arnold, Kirsten Malone, Guy Michaelsen, and Ryan Mertes.





LIVING GENEROUSLY

Thank You For Living and Giving Generously

Our Redeemer's Mission Budget Ends Fiscal Year in the Black

This year Our Redeemer's is on track to conclude our fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) on or ahead of our budget. This is especially good news because even though we have been fully staffed, we have not yet needed to use ANY of the Calvary Legacy funds as originally planned.

In 2014, our congregation voted to add staff to support our strategic plan: a full-time, experienced associate pastor and a communications person. To implement that, money from the sale of Calvary Lutheran's facility was set aside to offset the increase in budget. The draw from Legacy funds decreases each year, while the congregation's portion increases. In 2018-2019, we planned to use \$45,000 of Legacy funds, but have not yet had to use any of those.

Your generosity makes this good news possible -- along with all the good news Our Redeemer's ministries and welcome provide so many people throughout the year, and throughout our community!



Congregational Meeting

June 2 ~ 10am

We will be voting to authorize selling Our Redeemer's property that includes the area currently leased by the Ballard P-Patch.

Congregational Annual Meeting

June 23 ~ 10am

We will be voting to Celebrate and Review the Program and Fiscal Year Coming to a Close; Vote on Fiscal year 2019-20 budget and electing a new council member. Proposed budget summary will be available on your weekly eblast link not later than June 12, or in hard copy the following Sunday.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC



Summer Worship Schedule Preview

Summer Sundays at the Park ~ 7pm

All of the Sundays in July and August, Our Redeemer's will be hosting worship in various parks around North Seattle. Featuring musicians from the informal ensemble, it will be a casual gathering at 7pm with communion, song, and story. Added bonus: For those of you who are traveling or unable to worship in

person, we will be streaming Worship in the Park LIVE on Facebook. You will be able to join in the livestream with prayer requests in real time. We tried this technology when we were snowed in last February to excellent success!

On June 30, we will be having a "dress rehearsal" of this new worship at Sunset Hill Park. Please join us at 7pm to make sure all this stuff works, following all of the Pride festivities of course. :)

If you are interested in being in the Worship in the Park team, helping with setup, bonfires, or technology, please contact Pastor Gretchen. We need lots of hands to make this possible!

The schedule is as follows:

- July 7 – Golden Gardens
- July 14 – Sunset Hill Park
- July 21 – Carkeek Park
- July 28 – Green Lake
- August 4 – Golden Gardens
- August 11 – Sunset Hill Park
- August 18 – Carkeek Park
- August 25 – Green Lake

CENTERING PRAYER

Thursdays, 6-6:35PM.

Enter candlelit quiet
in our beautiful sanctuary.
You do not need to speak or sing anything.

- 10 minutes of calming (recorded) chant.
- 20 minutes of silence with a word or phrase you choose to remind you you want to be in God's presence.
- A 2-4 minute spiritual reading.
- Then, leave or take in more quiet.



Fund-A-Need Project: Band Recording a Record

by Gretchen Mertes

For the past few weeks, members of our informal ensemble have been hanging out in an actual recording studio with our producer and engineer, Lacey Brown. The drums, bass, and electric guitars, as well as the penny whistle have all been recorded and sounding great! We are hoping to have a release date in the fall for the record, and will have a party as well.

Some of you may be saying, “Why are you recording a record?” And there are a few different reasons for that:

1. Our music is good, and worth sharing! We can share it with our friends and family, as well as with other congregations as a resource of something they can use in their worship services. With the recording of the music, we will have available music notation and all the chords and lyrics so other people can use our music in their churches.
2. It’s called a “record” for a reason – it’s a record of what is happening, what style of worship we are using, and it’s an amazing snapshot of what we’re about in a given time. I have a record (on vinyl!) of music that my mother and father were singing at church when I was born in 1973, and it is a treasure to me! And, it still rocks. :)
3. It is a spiritual tool. This recording will be a useful tool in letting people know that we are here, that our music and our community have depth and value, and that people can come and check it out without fear. I mean, if you asked your neighbors, they probably have no idea that one of the best rock bands in Seattle plays every week at 9am on a Sunday in Ballard!

We will keep you updated on our progress, and, I am excited to hear what you think we should call this album! Right now, it’s “The Informal Ensemble of Our Redeemer’s” which frankly doesn’t sound very hip! Send me your suggestions!



Pentecost / Music Sunday

June 9 ~ Both Services

On June 9, we celebrate Pentecost - the birth of the Church and the gift of the Holy Spirit. And we also celebrate Music, combining the talents of our 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. musicians - singers and instrumentalists of all ages - at both services. It's always exciting to work together to prepare for Music Sunday, and the variety of music planned will provide a great mix of energy, beauty, and joy.

Please plan to wear red, the color of Pentecost, and join us at either worship service to enjoy a special morning of music. *"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody, with trumpets and the sound of the horn. Make a joyful noise..."* -Psalm 98: 4-6.



Let's Party and Celebrate New Members!

Sunday, June 9 ~ 12:30pm

On Sunday, June 9th (Pentecost Sunday) after the 11am worship service, we will celebrate our new members with a party in the Fellowship Hall. Please come and join in the celebration!

The new members ("Sojourners") participated in The Journey for six weeks during Lent. The Journey provided an opportunity to – explore faith, restore faith, learn more about Our Redeemer's and get acquainted with more folks and become a member if they choose to. The Sojourners pictured here affirmed their baptism at the Easter Sunrise Service on April 24th. We welcome Marian Forssen and Anna Wahleithner as new members at the 11am worship service on June 9th. Jesus Contreras, Norm Hill and Chris Rogness also participated in The Journey. A special thank you to the Orienteers who participated and guided the Sojourners during The Journey and will continue to guide them in their journey at Our Redeemer's.

Now the Journey continues – in your faith, in your life and in exploring Our Redeemer's. There are many ways to become involved with our community. Help these folks find something that sparks their interest – play/sing in the informal or traditional worship services, join a group? Volunteer to set up coffee hour? Help serve dinner? We truly hope that Our Redeemer's will be a source of God's new life and community for them!



March With Us At Pride!

Sunday, June 30

Our Redeemer's marches with gratitude each year in the Seattle Pride Parade as part of the "Loving Lutherans of the Northwest Washington Synod" float. People of all ages (who have the stamina to walk quite a ways in the parade) are welcomed and invited to march to show our love and support of all our LGBTQIA family in Christ. If you are interested in marching, or in supporting this event, please contact Pastor Gretchen or Shannon Beck for more information.

Please join the Our Redeemer's contingent at the Pride Parade! We'll be marching with other Reconciling in Christ communities through Open Door Ministries. Let's march to publicly affirm and welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people. So many have been wounded by churches in the past, and the Pride Parade is a wonderful way as a church to share a message of affirmation, celebration, and God's Love! We'll march behind the Our Redeemer's banner.

Assemble in the narthex after the 9am service and we will take the bus down together. Be ready for a lot of walking. Bring water, snacks, comfortable walking shoes, your bus fare- and all the rainbow items you can find!! Let Shannon know if you are attending so we can plan for give-aways! outreach@ourredeemers.net



Celtic Contemplative Communion

Sunday, July 14 ~ 10am

Mark your calendar now for Seattle's only service led by this ensemble, from Minnesota and returning from a week as musician-in-residence at Holden Village. The ensemble has led the Celtic Contemplative Communion service at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN for 17 years, and use traditional, new and transcendent soundscapes.





End of Year Faith Formation Summer Bike Blessing Party!

Sunday June 16th ~ 10am ~ Parking Lot!

Calling all faith formation volunteers! If you've helped with faith formation in the last year – from Exploring Faith and Justice, to helping with confirmation, to the Christmas Pageant, to helping with the Easter Egg hunt, to working at VBS, you are invited to a time of celebration and appreciation on Sunday June 16 at 10am. We will be:

- Hosting a bike blessing and parade to get ready for summer
- Making prayer flags to hang at our homes
- Honoring everyone who has made a difference in the lives of youth and children
- Eating some seriously good snacks and treats

If you would like to help with the party, please contact Pastor Gretchen – she needs all the help she can get! :)



FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation Update

by Betsy McGregor

In the last few months we have been updating you on our progress towards the hiring of a consultant to help Our Redeemer's with the re-development of our Faith Formation programs. We have met with and decided to hire a coach with Vibrant Faith, a Lutheran consultancy firm. Vibrant Faith uses a coaching/consultancy model. We will be working with a coach who will first evaluate where we are as a congregation relative to Faith Formation. This important work will start by gathering input for all stake holders in our congregation. Once this information is gathered, our coach will help guide us to build a robust Faith Formation program which engages all of our members, but our youngest specifically. Our coach will begin his work on July 1st with information gathering. Along the way you may be asked to give insight or feedback into your experiences here at Our Redeemer's and your own faith journey. Our goal is to emerge from this process with a plan that engages all members, especially our youngest ones, with a lifelong faith and relationship with God.

Confirmation Update

August 11-15 ~ Lutherhaven

As we wrap up the school year of confirmation lessons, I've been looking back over some of the questions that our students have asked on their sermon notes (they're required to have at least one question) and I thought I would share some with you:

"How did MLK juggle being an activist and a pastor?"

"Why is there an All Saint's Day?"

"How do you have hope when everything seems hopeless?"

"Why did King Herod feel so threatened by a baby?"

"How can Our Redeemer's help with the divide in our country?"

"Why are blessings so complicated?"

"What if the truth has negative consequences?"

We have an extraordinary group of students in confirmation, asking big questions and having real discussions. I think it would be great if each of us "grown ups" would take a page from these kids' playbook and asked and discussed our deep questions of faith without fear of retribution, just hoping to gain some clarity in a murky world. I am privileged to lead them, and I am excited to take 8 of them to confirmation camp this summer for an intensive, fun, faith-filled week of singing, praying, and growing in their relationship with God.



Kids and their Families: Exploring Faith through Arts and Creativity

At 10am, between services we have been exploring faith and justice with all ages since September.

It has been a fun, informational, and invigorating study! Now we are shifting gears to a more kid-oriented arts & crafts time, based on the Easter stories we will hear in church each Sunday.

Kids of all ages and their families (and really, anyone who wants to come) are invited to sign up to participate in a meaningful artistic session from 10:05-10:55 in room 10 upstairs, or other spaces as assigned. There is no cost for these amazing classes.

June 2 CANCELLED! *See new date below.*

June 9 – Pentecost: The Birthday of the Church!
Make fun fleece Holy Spirit pillows.

June 16 – Spreading Peace
Making prayer flags to hang at our homes.



SPIRITUALITY & RECOVERY

*How Christian Spiritual Practices
and 12-Step Recovery Deepen One Another*

**Sundays, May 19 - June 30
10:05 - 10:50AM**

This adult forum is for any and all who want to live fully. We will look at faith practices from the perspective of 12-step work, which will enrich our faith, whether we are in recovery or not.

As we discuss brief videos, share our experiences, and try out the practices... we will learn from one another and explore new dimensions of God's promise of new life... for all.

The forums will be facilitated by Sharon LeVan, a spiritual director and member; Bruce Jenkins, retired pastor; Katlin Dickinson-Laurence, seminary intern; and Pastor Kathy Hawks.

May 19: Powerlessness

May 26: Waking Up

June 2: No class
(Congregational meeting)

June 9: Living Transparently

June 16: Deep Listening

June 23: No class
(Congregational meeting)

June 30: Silence

**Please note change in dates and topics from our original schedule.*



**Life Masters:
Movies, Bible, and Dinner... Oh My!**

MONTHLY MOVIE ~ Land of Plenty

Friday, June 21 ~ Noon

Land of Plenty is a parable of two different responses to 9/11 that helps us consider the cultural divide in our country today. World-traveling missionary Lana (Michelle Williams) returns to post-Sept. 11 America from the Middle East, and works at a Los Angeles homeless shelter. Her Vietnam veteran uncle Paul (John Diehl) passes his days self-styled reconnaissance mission looking for Islamic terrorists. Paul and Lana re-establish an uneasy relationship, but when they witness an act of violence, their divergent points of view force them to reconsider their friendship. Dana Wright will lead our discussion. Bring a snack and a desire to discuss this film.

**LIFE MASTERS' MONTHLY BIBLE
EXPLORATION OF LUKE CONTINUES**

Sunday, June 23, 12:30PM

In the library, after late service.

Bring your lunch, and your appetite for God's living Word! We "flying-over" the Gospel of Luke, which is also currently the focus of Gospel readings in our worship services.

This month: *Restoring to Wholeness* Luke 5:12-16; 7:1-17; 8:22-56 and 9:37-43. (Commentary is pp. 37-44 in Luke Immersion.) Pastor Gretchen will be leading our study this month.

ALL ARE WELCOME -- whether or not you have attended earlier sessions and whether or not you have the commentary.

**SAVE THE DATE!!
THE PROGRESSIVE DINNER'S COMING**

Saturday, June 29 ~ 6PM

Details and sign up coming soon! Do you have ample seating and are willing to host one course? Please let Lynne McNeill or Pastor Kathy know.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Vacation Bible School

Across the church, the call to care for creation has been growing. ReNew is an environmentally-focused VBS program that inspires kids and adults to grow in faith, have fun, and change the world as they practice stewardship of creation!

You can still expect many of the things you love about VBS—kids learning about Jesus, exploring God’s Word, singing and celebrating, but we have modified and simplified the program to make it green, centered on stewardship of creation, and action-oriented for a big impact on the participants, our community, and the world.

ReNew uses a modified rotation model. That means kids rotate through Self, Community, and World activity sites each day, where they explore what the Bible story and creation care mean for their everyday lives—and for all creation around the globe. Each activity site incorporates a multiple-intelligences approach to learning, which means kids experience the Bible story using all five senses and live out a call to care for creation through service-oriented activities.

ReNew is designed for kids in preschool through grade 5, with activities specifically developed for the following age groupings:

- **Preschool: Play.** The youngest kids at VBS meet with the whole group for Gather and Send activities to kick off and wrap up the day, but the rest of their time is spent in a self-contained preschool classroom. Because preschoolers learn through imaginative exploration, free play is an important part of the preschool activity site.
- **Lower Elementary: Explore.** Kids in Kindergarten–Grade 2 begin and end their day with the whole group for Gather time before rotating through activity sites and wrapping up the day with a large group Send time. Activity site options for Lower Elementary don’t require reading fluency.
- **Upper Elementary: Discover.** Kids in Grades 3–6 celebrate with the whole group for Gather and Send times and rotate through activity sites during the rest of the VBS day. Upper Elementary activities build on kids’ wider understanding of their impact on themselves, their communities, and the world.
- **All Kids: Impact.** Ideal for small and large VBS programs, All Kids activities are designed to work for groups that include kids from Kindergarten–Grade 6. Recognizing the wide age and ability span, these activities are designed to get kids working together and helping one another.

ReNew is Action-Oriented!

One of the best ways to grow in faith is to put faith into action and see the results. That’s why many of the ReNew activities have an outward focus toward service with and in your local community and the world. Kids will “think globally and act locally” every single day!



Grow in Faith. Have Fun. Change the World.



Where Does the Bible Fit In?

God's creation is a gift we all share. We all live in it together and depend on it together. Caring for it—together—is both a good work and collective act of faith. The Bible is filled with stories and teachings that reveal our dependence on God through the bounty of the earth. In fact, you could hardly tell the story of the chosen people or hear one of Jesus' parables without the water, trees, wilderness, animals, and weather that form their backdrop. ReNew weaves together this rich natural imagery with engaging activities kids love, resulting in a deeper, more memorable experience of the Word.

We will be focusing on one story, Jesus' Parable of the Sower, so kids can explore this parable in-depth, rather than trying to learn multiple non-consecutive stories over a short period of time. Digging into the story from the perspectives of Self, Community, and World also allows kids to relate to the text and build a relationship with the Bible. Each day at ReNew, kids hear the entire Bible story, but then focus on one section of it to discover what the passage means for them and how it relates to caring for God's creation. Finally, the activities in ReNew are centered in stewardship. Kids learn, create, and do things that change their world. Their faith is put into action and impacts the wider community.

WE NEED YOU! In order for VBS to fully fly, we need a whole cadre of volunteers. If you are able to help for the whole week, or just in the mornings or afternoons, we would be deeply grateful for your time and enthusiasm! Here are some of the job descriptions where help is needed:

- Preparations Director: Coordinates all the "stuff" needed for VBS – gathering supplies, decorations, snacks, and helping with volunteer coordinating.
- Shepherd: Guides a small group of 6-8 kids through the VBS rotation each day. Their primary tasks are building relationships among the group and encouraging full participation in ReNew activities.
- Gather/Send Leader: Leads the Gather and Send time each day—along side Pastor Gretchen with music, they teach the Bible story, and guide the Daily Ritual. These leaders help VBS kids catch the ReNew vision as they arrive and send them home to share the vision.
- Activity Site Leader: Leads one of the activity sites—Self, Community, or World. Site leaders help kids dig deeper. Kids' love for the wonder of the vastness of creation leads to a sense of the awesome responsibility and opportunity Christians have for its care. Crafts are in this section!
- Preschool Leader: Leads the self-contained Preschool Activity Site.
- Snacks Leader: Coordinates and leads daily snack time.
- Games Leader: Leads the Games Site.



Gratitude and Grace (grace, grace)

*2019 NW Washington Synod Assembly
by Don Boelter*

Gratitude and grace were the words of the days as Northwest Washington (ELCA) Lutherans gathered together for three days of worship, celebration, and important Synod business on May 19-21.

At the top of the agenda was electing a new Bishop, as Kirby Unti decided not to seek re-election after faithfully serving his six-year term. Nine pastors of word and sacrament allowed their names to go into nomination.

Prior to Assembly, the candidates each completed a written questionnaire, spoke at two live candidate forums, and produced a five-minute video presentation. Also, over 400 churches and members participated in a Synod-wide poll clarifying goals and priorities for the next Bishop. In short, there was copious amounts of information available about each candidate, and it was all easily accessible via the Synod web site, live streams, and the ELCA Meeting App.

Voting for the Bishop was conducted in four rounds, starting on Friday evening when the field was reduced to seven names. Frustratingly, the first vote in both round one and round two voting was invalidated because there were more votes cast than eligible voting members registered. After the second failed vote on Saturday morning, presiding election chair Kevin Strickland--in consultation with ELCA legal

consult--instructed everyone to reregister, and all subsequent votes ran smoothly.

After each round, the remaining candidates were given further opportunities to discuss their visions of how they would serve as bishop, through further statements and prepared questions and answers periods. After three rounds, the field was narrowed down to two candidates: The Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee (Assistant to the Bishop) and The Rev. Deanna Wildermuth (Mercer Island LC, Synod Council member).

On Sunday morning, both candidates spoke passionately about their hopes and dreams for the future of the NW Washington Synod, and what skills, abilities and experiences they would bring to the job of bishop. The final vote, as all the previous votes, was preceded by prayer from the Rev. Strickland, Assistant to the Bishop for Worship at church-wide ELCA.

When the final votes were counted, the Rev. Wee prevailed by narrow 167 to 158 vote. On the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in the ELCA's predecessor denominations, Bishop-elect Wee became the first female elected bishop of our Synod. Wee has served in the Bishop's office in her current capacity since 2017. Prior to that call, she was the pastor at Lutheran Campus Ministry at Eastern Washington University from 2009-2017. She also served in several other calls in the Eastern Washington area, and received an M.Div from Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary and BA from Pacific Lutheran University.

In addition to electing a new bishop, Bishop Kirby Unti was recognized and celebrated for his six years of service as Bishop (and decades of service to the Synod) on Friday evening. Friends and colleagues spoke glowingly of the dedication and "grace, grace, grace" he brought to his years of ministry, echoing his signature inspirational expression.

A highlight of the night was our own Pastor Gretchen Mertes—good friend and former colleague of Kirby’s at St. Matthew’s in Renton—serenaded him with her own take on The Beatles Let it Be, or as she changed Sir Paul’s lyrics to, Set Him (Kirby) Free.

In addition to Pastor Gretchen, Our Redeemer’s was represented by: Pastor Kathy Hawks, David McBride, Dave Eicke, Pastor Jon-Otto “Joshua” Llijenstolpe, and Katlin Dickinson-Laurence (non-voting Visitor). Parish Administrator Don Boelter attended as a voting member of Phinney Ridge Lutheran.

Our Redeemer’s was also recognized as on the Synod’s Congregations celebrating it’s 75th Anniversary this year, which will happen in September.

This was the first Assembly since 2017, when it was decided that it would be changed from an annual to a biannual event. Upon further consideration over the past two years, citing primarily logistical concerns over electing Synod and National representatives, Synod Council decided to change to a three year Assembly cycle as follows: year one--full multiday Assembly; year two--abbreviated one day business only Assembly; year three--Synod-wide informal conversational gatherings.

For a full report on election results, resolutions passed, amendments to the Synod constitution, please go to www.lutheransnw.org/2019-Synod-Assembly.



Everything Was Decided With Love: A Synod Assembly Delegate’s Thank You

by Dave Eicke

I want to thank you and the church council for inviting me to attend the Synod Assembly this last weekend. When you first approached me about it, my thought was “Church Governance, Uhh”. It didn’t sound appealing to me at all. But I powered through my doubts and I’m glad I did. I found it a pleasant and spiritually fruitful experience. I’ve been to many library conferences over the years, and the format of this was similar. The difference I saw was that everything at the Synod conference was decided with love. Love showed in all the dealings throughout the conference. Even when there was disagreement, both sides seemed to be coming at it from a place of love. Our civil discourse could learn from that.

I was impressed with the quality of the bishop candidates and the I found the discernment process well designed and it left me feeling able to make a wise decision. There was the power of having 300+ people seeing the candidates in different ways over a period of days, and voting several times. In the end, I felt comfortable with whoever was to called to be bishop. Again, I wish our civil elections were more like that.

I also come away from that conference with an increased appreciation for the Lutheran church. Through the display tables, video presentations, and messages from the podium I was better able to see all the good things the Lutheran church is doing in the world. I was also able to see the spirituality of the leadership, and the love that informs everything they do.

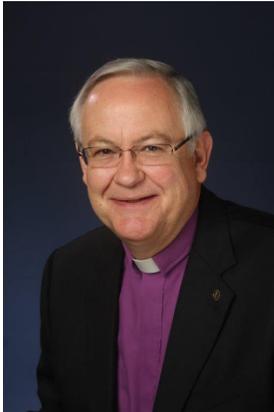
So I thank Our Redeemers for this giving me the opportunity to do this thing that I didn’t even know I needed.

The Spirit

Volume 36, Number 6
June 2019

Life In Between

By Bishop Kirby Unti



On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"
--Luke 10:11-13

Our Synod Staff has been dwelling on Luke's story of the 10 lepers for the last several months. It has come to our attention that the story takes place where many, many Biblical Stories take place, "in between places." In this case Jesus encounters the lepers in between Samaria and Galilee.

There is a practical reason for this. The lepers would not have been welcomed in Samaria or Galilee. They were living in the only place they were allowed, on the margins. Given that Jesus was constantly on the move plays right into the likelihood that we will encounter him in between place.

But there is more to this than geography. The story of faith, hope and love is forged "in between." For Abraham and Sarah it was formed in between the invitation to leave behind family and home and the promise of becoming a great nation. For the Israelites it was in the wilderness between Egypt and Promised Land. For the people of exile it was between living in a strange

land and the hope of returning home. For the disciples it was in between the sea of Galilee and the cross. And then there is the most holy of time between Good Friday and Easter Morning.

I have never been good at living "in between." The uncertainty creates anxiety for me. I want to know the outcome. I just want to get there. Forty years in the wilderness would have done me in.

It is not easy for me to live in the present. I am often seduced into wanting to go back to the way it was or jumping ahead to what is waiting for me. Little did I know how prophetic the words of those were who said to Kim and me, "Enjoy your children because they grow up way too quickly." It is in the space and time of "in between" that we come to know, to love and to trust. It is precisely the place we are called to live.

Northwest Washington is entering "in between" time. In between two bishops. Please welcome Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee. Bishop-elect Shelley and I both are leaning into this in between space knowing that it is sacred encountering space. I encourage you not to look back or to race ahead. Rather welcome this new time and our new Bishop and take up residency in it. It is where we encounter Jesus.

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you." --Luke 10:20-21

+BKU

THANK YOU to all who attended the 2019 Synod Assembly
SPECIAL thank you to the planners, volunteers and guests who ensured a vibrant, Spirit-led gathering!
Learn more at www.lutheransnw.org/2019-Synod-Assembly



SOCIAL JUSTICE / EARTH CARE



The Church Council of Greater Seattle celebrates 100 years!

In the pacific northwest, we work together for justice and peace. The Church Council of Greater Seattle is the oldest ecumenical organization in Seattle and certainly the oldest organization we partner with. Join us in celebrating 100 years of making a difference together as the Church Council of Greater Seattle. You're invited to a FREE Community Celebration followed by a buffet reception on Saturday, June 1st at Plymouth Church in Seattle. All are welcome!

We'll gather as communities brought together by the work of faithful justice. Across religion, sectors, geography and other diversities we'll hear stories of our work together over the years; reflect on the present day; honor prophetic leaders essential to who we are today as the Church Council; and look to the future, together. Contact Shannon if you would like to bus or carpool. outreach@ourredeemers.net

ALL THE THANKS!

Lutheran World Relief InGathering meets needs of those in crisis in the U.S.

- Thank you to everyone who donated items for care kits.
- Thank you to all who imagined, created, sewed, blessed, and boxed quilts.
- Thank you, especially, to Sharon Longacre, who made an amazing waffle breakfast for volunteers on Saturday and coordinated two days of hospitality.
- Thanks to welcomers, cookie makers, boxers, loaders, and everyone who made this awesome event possible!



Spring Recycling Goes Off Without A Hitch

- Thank you to all who staffed and organized stations.
- Thank you to those who helped organize the parking lot in conjunction with the Fred Neidner event.
- Thank you to those who helped set up the day of and who did such awesome welcoming.



Troubling the Waters

A four part series on the experience of Ecumenical Advocacy Days

The church supported Sydney, Shannon, and Katlin at Ecumenical Advocacy days in April. This yearly event held in Washington DC culminates in a visit to Capitol Hill to advocate with our elected officials. People of faith go together, representing nearly every state, bringing an important Christian voice to our senators and congresspeople. Working together, our voices are amplified, and we are empowered to do Christ's work in the world. Together, we trouble the waters.

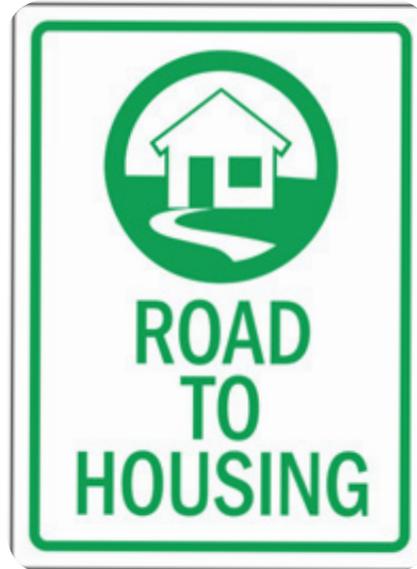
Mary sat on the periphery of our circle of conversation, a striking, barely-educated young woman; careful about eye contact. We were asked to connect about the plenary information provided, but frankly, I cannot recall what it was. What I remember is Mary.

Mary grew up with drug-addicted parents, many siblings, and remembering wandering around outside at two or three years of age where neighbors would eventually send her back home. She watched the older kids drop out of school, and was hungry a lot. She didn't understand

many words I assume. This was her third year at Ecumenical Advocacy days. She came with her Baptist church. They had saved her. She figured she would be a statistic like the rest of her family. She couldn't even imagine a different path.

PhD's, clergy, elders, deacons, and lay people; gainfully employed, unemployed, rich, poor and working poor converged to learn how to follow in the steps of Jesus and the prophets. No doubt we all had agendas, but Catholics and Baptists, Lutherans and Presbyterians, and 70 different denominations and faith-based nonprofits worked together to help create a world where more Marys would make it. A world where Marys can vote. A world where Marys have social and economic resources to buoy her. A world where our work had impact for those who could not get to the polls to vote and where human rights is championed at all levels of government.

I saw Mary as we marched to Mitch McConnell's office together humming quietly Wade in the Water through the halls of power. We bore witness together to the power of a rainbow of God's people using their voices on behalf of those with little agency. We left empowered. Grateful. Engaged.



For the Life of the World: Our Redeemer's commitment to Ballard Sunday Dinner

Our Redeemers has supported Ballard Sunday Dinner for close to four years! It is a heart and hands commitment for several volunteers who serve as leads and many others who cook, clean, greet, assemble, and disassemble the room!

Do you cook? Or like to help cooking?

Have you ever wondered what it is like to run a commercial dishwasher?

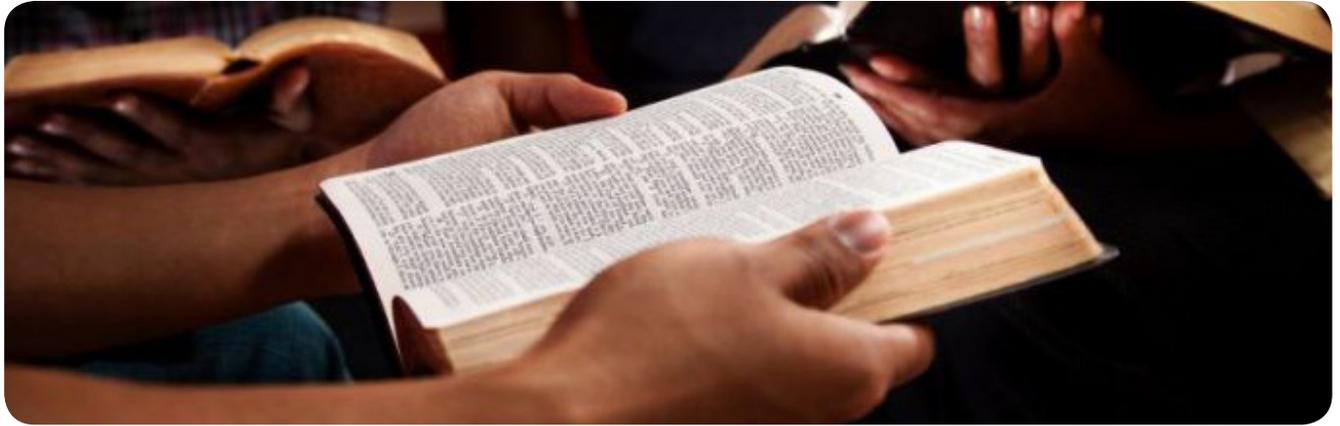
Do you want to try something new?

Ballard Sunday dinner needs you! All of you! Heart, mind, spirit, and body! You don't need to be a master chef. We have recipes! You don't have to fear homeless people. We've got you covered! Live out your generous life by volunteering with Ballard Sunday dinner! Talk to Ronda Andrews, Emilie Purvine, Shannon Beck, or Margaret Wetter for details. Make a difference for the life of the world.

Road To Housing: Deeper Partnership!

We are getting excited to finalize Mayor Jenny Durkin's initiative to focus some monies on our partnership with the Urban League in our Road to Housing program. Look for communication coming out to the public about this.

We have begun a process with our Social Justice team, to consider how we might deepen our current partnerships. With this in mind, and with a few folks needing to leave the current team, we have a need for 2-4 others to join us. These positions need people with big hearts who like to work on big picture issues and also those with practical inclinations. If you are lucky to have both, consider this especially! We meet approximately every other month for an hour and jump into decision making when something unexpected comes up. Does this sound like something good for you? Could God be nudging you to expand your awareness and service? Call Shannon 502-443-3544



Wednesday Bible Study Considers Biblical Wisdom Literature

Wednesdays ~ 10:30am

The Bible says in Proverbs 4:6-7, “Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore, get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”

Thinking this weary world could use a bit of wisdom, the class will survey important scriptural texts, including Proverbs, Job, Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes), Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), Song of Songs (Canticle of Cancticles), Daniel, Wisdom of Solomon, and selections from the Gospels as well as from the book of Psalms.

I quote from the course description: The lectures take up the array of topics and problems that are recurrent in the Bible’s wisdom books, with special emphasis on the problem of the suffering of the innocent but also including such themes as friendship, virtue and vice, marriage and the choice of a spouse, decision making, life priorities, child rearing, illness, and death.

Because the parts of scripture relevant to this course are especially sacred to Judaism and to Christianity, the approach taken here tries to be respectful both to the synagogue and to the church, for both revere this material and have sophisticated ideas about the Bible and its proper

interpretation. They share a reverence for the Torah, for the Prophets, and for other writings such as the Psalms that are studied in this course.

What Christianity recognizes as the New Testament stands in a profound continuity with what came before, whether we think of this as the Hebrew Bible or as the Old Testament. In the New Testament there are various elements that stand within the wisdom tradition, such as some of the sayings and sermons of Jesus within the Gospels, and so these too are part of our study.

You may be asking how did you, Carolyn, get so wise as to facilitate this subject, and you are correct—I’m not. We will get help from one of The Great Courses’ Religion and Theology studies via a DVD taught by Professor Joseph W. Koterski (see below). These 30-minute lectures will be accompanied by some of our own experiences as we contemplate the subject of the day.

It promises to be an interesting study on a part of the Bible we seldom have sermons on and just know snippets of. Hope you agree and join with us in September.

Biography: Father Joseph W. Koterski, S.J. is a Jesuit Priest of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus. He has been a member of the Philosophy Department of Fordham University since 1992 and is the Editor-in-Chief of the International Philosophical Quarterly. He served two terms as President of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars.



COMMUNITY



We Sadly Bid Parish Administrator Don Boelter Farewell

Don has served Our Redeemer's as full-time parish administrator for four and a half years. In that time, he has overseen our finances, our facilities, our building use, our front office and front office staff, served as liaison between our Vision-Aligned Building Team and our architects, supported staff and council, and helped us maintain good relationships with our neighbors. In every dimension of his position, he has improved our functioning and our hospitality.

Don has always been willing to do whatever is needed to serve our mission and our congregation, often at odd times of the week or the day. We will really miss him, but wish him the very best as he moves into a new and more demanding job as Parish Administrator of Trinity Lutheran Lynnwood, a congregation about two times Our Redeemer's' size.

With gifts from members, we expressed our thanks to Don with a Ticketmaster gift card so he and his wife, Jenn, can enjoy more of the concerts and shows they love

Thanks so much, Don!

Parish Administrator Search Underway

It is possible that by the time you read this, Our Redeemer's will have a new parish administrator. A search team composed of Jim Arnold, Bob Carlson, Shelbe Kukowski, Katlin Dickinson-Laurence and Pastor Hawks have reviewed resumes and are conducting interviews. Please keep this process in your prayers, and stay tuned.



Theology on Tap

Tuesday, June 25 ~ 7pm

Tom & Matt's house

In June we will be gathering on the 25th at Tom Bernard and Matt Grover's home at 7:00pm. We will be exploring the idea of change and transition – what does God have to say about change? What faith practices have helped you in a time of transition? How does your faith inform your worries? Bring a snack and a beverage to share, and we'll see you there! Also, friends and family are more than welcomed and invited to join us in this time of conversation, socializing, and fun. I mean, who doesn't like God and beverages? With questions, email Betsy McGregor at : bemac7309@gmail.com



Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, June 5 ~ 7am
Patty's Egg Nest
9749 Holman Rd NW

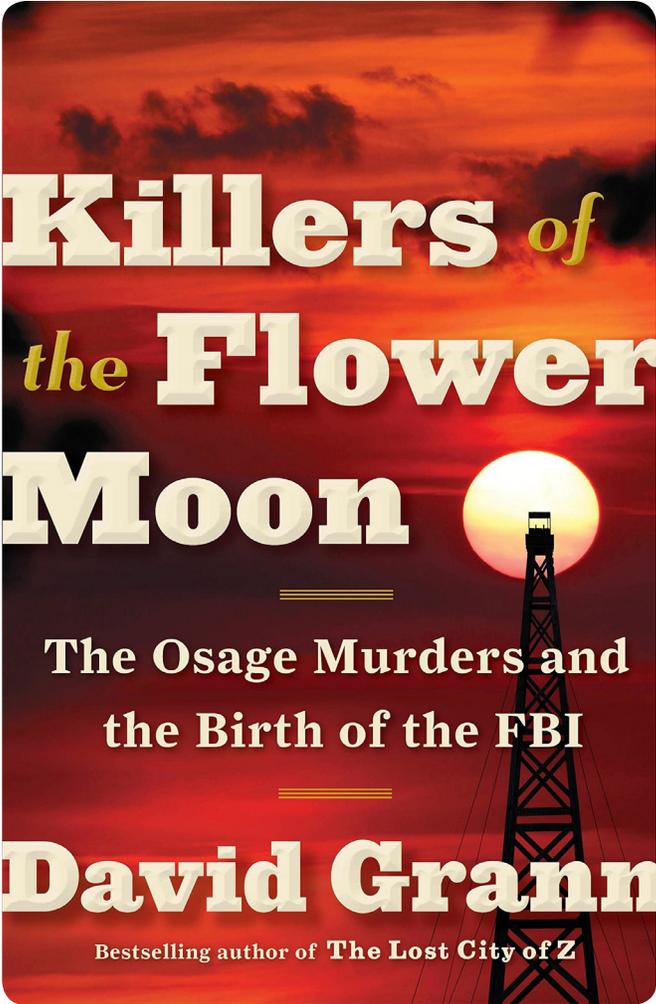
Refresh your spirit in the new year with good company, coffee, and pancakes at Patty's Egg Nest.



Caring Community Team

June 15 ~ 12pm ~ Judy Chamber's Home

Caring Community Team will have their next meeting on 06/15/2019 at 12:00 Noon (another time change). The meeting will be held at the home of Judy Chambers.



**Madonnas Book Group:
The Nightingale**

June 2

Our June book is Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann. Be on the lookout for more info. Contact Margaret Wetter (margaretwetter@comcast.net) for more info.



Women's Retreat Was A Time Of Vulnerability And Courage

Twenty-four women gathered at Camp Indianola the first week-end of May to explore THE PRAYERS IN OUR BONES. The title was suggested by a passage from Jan Richardson (writer and artist). The sharing of our hearts and lives was inspired by sessions led by Sally Parker-Henderson, Ellen Arrington, Candace Todd-Robbins and Pastor Kathy.

We took seriously how prayers are etched and woven into our lives and expressed through who we are, making us "sacred texts" of God's grace. We explored our names, our heroes/heroines, our treasures, and the experiences after which we have never been the same. God's Spirit was powerfully present, weaving us together, bringing healing, laughter, new relationships, and deeper gratitude for ourselves and one another.

The result was a remarkable experience of faith and community.

As an anonymous author has written: *"Nothing is sweet or easy about community, Community is a fellowship of people who do not hide their joys and sorrows for them visible to each other in a gesture of hope. In community we say: 'Life is full of gains and losses, joys and sorrows, ups and downs--but we do not have to live it alone. We want to drink our cup together and thus celebrate the truth that the wounds of our individual lives, which seem intolerable when lived alone, become sources of healing when we live them as part of a fellowship of mutual care."*

Our thanks to all who led the retreat and to those who handled logistics : Mary Gross, Lynne McNeill, and Julie Vannoy.



Meet the Members: Jeanne Gersten & Bob Kromer

by Nancy Oldenkamp

Jeanne Gersten

1) What drew you to attend Our Redeemer's?

What drew me to Redeemer's? I went to a few services over the years, but when I attended a memorial service I was so impressed by how thoughtful Pastors Kathy and Gretchen were, demonstrating their love and friendship in a difficult time. The singing was fantastic. Bob and I were both raised in the Lutheran church.

2) Where did you live as a child? How many brothers and sisters do you have?

I grew up in Wisconsin in a small town. My dad was the local funeral director and my mom an LPN. but mainly stayed home to raise five children. I am the middle of five, with one older brother and sister and two younger brothers. My siblings all still live in the Midwest. My mom died from ALS when I was 18 and starting college, and

my dad passed away a few years ago at the age of 85. He was very active in his church.

3) What do you do for work?

I moved out West in 1982, excited for the adventure ahead of me, to be a freelance court reporter in Yakima. I have been a court reporter for 39 years and moved here from Wenatchee where I was an official reporter in Superior Court. I love my job and all the interesting people I meet.

4) What are your interests/passions/hobbies?

My interests include cycling with Bob, walking, traveling, baking. We are training for the Seattle to Portland ride in mid July, so we always look forward to the weekends to ride the Burke-Gilman and explore other destinations. Personally I really enjoy riding over the 520 bridge as Mount Rainier is so beautiful and not so crazy busy as the

Burke-Gilman trail on weekends.

I am so fortunate to be accepted into Our Redeemer's church family at Easter. That is definitely a highlight of my year! It feels comforting to be part of this unique, caring congregation. I am impressed by everything Our Redeemer's does for the community.

5) Something you look forward to this year?

My daughter is graduating from the UW in June!! We are really looking forward to what the future holds for her. We are also hoping to travel together this year. This is an exciting year for us, as we have just been together since January after renewing our friendship from the early '80s when we met each other in Michigan. We were bike buddies then, too.

6) Favorite thing about attending Our Redeemer's?

My favorite thing about attending Our Redeemer's is the wonderful people I have met. People are so genuinely friendly and caring. I am also very happy that Jessie, our friends' daughter, enjoys attending with us. I also love the music and the camaraderie.

7) Anything else you'd like us to know?

Another thing I am looking forward to is the Storm basketball season. I love basketball! When I was a senior in high school we won the state championship. My claim to fame.

Bob and I also love going to concerts, and we are fortunate Seattle has some wonderful musicians to see this year!

Bob Kromer

1) What drew you to attend Our Redeemer's?

Last fall, while I was still in Michigan, Jeanne would send the links to the weekly bulletin and even the links to the sermons on sound cloud. This is part of what drew me to Our Redeemer's.

2) Where did you live as a child? How many brothers and sisters do you have?

I grew up mainly in Ohio and Michigan with some time also spent in Vermont, Florida and Massachusetts. I have 3 brothers and 2 sisters, all currently living in Michigan. My son Scott lives in Green Bay with his wife Alison and my 2 grandsons; Luke and Matt. My son Joe lives in Grand Rapids, MI with his black cat, Zack.

3) What do you do for work?

My occupation is retired physical therapist, specialized in geriatric rehab.

4) What are your interests/passions/hobbies?

Interests include photography, bicycling, birding and reading.

5) Something you look forward to this year?

Looking forward to the Seattle to Portland bike ride (STP) in July!

6) Favorite thing about attending Our Redeemer's?

Favorite things about Our Redeemer's: Music, Sermons, Prayers.

MILESTONES

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Amy Dahlgren | 9 | Christine Skow | 20 | Chuck McKenzie |
| 1 | Ken Lubkowski | 10 | Denny Palmason | 20 | Nancy Parks |
| 3 | Paul Berg | 12 | Levi Jancola | 21 | Richard Holt |
| 3 | Glory Frodesen | 12 | Marete Meyer | 22 | Eric Hendricks |
| 3 | Harper Hammett | 12 | Susan Pelto | 23 | Matt Grover |
| 5 | Sam Altenberger | 13 | Jana Davi | 24 | Andrew Brissette |
| 7 | Evan Butler | 13 | Erik Giesa | 25 | Chris Kaimmer |
| 7 | Barbara Sinn | 14 | Deanna Carter | 25 | Himanshu Shekhar |
| 8 | Steve Erickson | 18 | Darci Evidon | 28 | Gabriel Jones |
| 8 | Nic Wilson | 18 | Danielle Modeen | 28 | Terrence Rindler |
| 8 | Bryce Wilson | 19 | Grant Anderson | 29 | Marli Iverson |
| 9 | Nelson Miller | 20 | Ed Chabot | 30 | Craig Gibson |

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR...

Those turning 90+:



Irene Day
who was born June 27, 1919
and is turning 100!

June Moore who was born on June 20, 1925 and is turning 94!

The birth of:



Mia Caroline Brady
who was born on May 4, 2019
at 8:30pm!

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.

JUNE 2019

ourredeemers.net/calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| SUNDAYS: 9am - Informal Worship 11am - Traditional Worship | | | | | | |
| 2 10am Congregational Meeting | 3 9am Quilters | 4 | 5 7am Men's Breakfast 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 630pm Children's Choir 7pm Adult Choir | 6 345pm Staff Meeting 6pm Centering Prayer & Meal | 7 130pm Folders Staff Retreat | 1 9am Traditional Worship Team 2pm Young Families Group |
| 9 PENTECOST/MUSIC SUNDAY 10am Spirituality & Recovery 10am Explore Faith & Art 1230 New Member Reception | 10 9am Quilters | 11 | 12 1030am Bible Study 6pm Youth Choir 630pm Children's Choir 7pm Adult Choir | 13 10am Staff Meeting 6pm Centering Prayer | 14 130pm Folders | 8 Staff Retreat |
| 16 10am Spirituality & Recovery 10am Explore Faith & Art 5pm Ballard Sunday Dinner | 17 9am Quilters | 18 630pm Church Council | 19 1030am Bible Study | 20 10am Staff Meeting 6pm Centering Prayer | 21 130pm Folders | 15 12pm Caring Community Team |
| 23 10am Congregational Meeting 1230pm Life Masters' Bible Exploration | 24 9am Quilters | 25 7pm Theology on Tap | 26 1030am Bible Study | 27 10am Staff Meeting 6pm Centering Prayer | 28 130pm Folders | 22 3pm Life Masters' Movie |
| 30 Pride Sunday 10am Explore Faith & Art 10am Spirituality & Recovery | | | | | | 29 3pm Life Masters' Progressive Dinner |

*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

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return service requested

WEEKLY WORSHIP

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

Pentecost & Music Sunday

June 9

On June 9, we celebrate Pentecost - the birth of the Church and the gift of the Holy Spirit. And we also celebrate Music, combining the talents of our 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. musicians - singers and instrumentalists of all ages - at both services. It's always exciting to work together to prepare for Music Sunday, and the variety of music planned will provide a great mix of energy, beauty, and joy.

Please plan to wear red, the color of Pentecost, and join us at either worship service to enjoy a special morning of music.