

APRIL 2025

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

The Visitor

Holy Week
& Easter
Page 7

*Bodies are
Powerful: the Life
and Power of God
is Community in
Christ*

A Community in the Model of Christ

Out of the Wilderness

Previously in this section, I wrote, “the wildness of God’s grace widens the eye and allows us to see how little control we exert in this life without consequences.” As we come closer to Holy Week—as we continue to walk deeper into the wilderness—what is revealed is the complexity of life, and the limits of our condition in sin.

Wilderness can become a garden when boundaries are drawn around it. A jungle can only reach as far as it can hold its biosphere, a desert eventually reaches water, and a valley is hemmed in by hills and mountains. So too, can we see the earth as a patchwork of gardens if we understand the nature of the places into which we enter. Knowing how these gardens grow and are sustained helps us to live according to their environment. And then, wilderness seems less wild, but more natural. We become less wanderers, but explorers. In this way, the old adage is true: “not all who wander are lost.”

God’s people were never truly lost, though it may have felt that way at times, and the guidance God gave often was lost on them. They lived in contrast to the settled life they had, rather, to be given a balcony view—to view themselves and how God might see them, and learn the folly and futility of the search to control, tame, and shape life according to our desires. A gardener who does not understand the life living within it cannot tend it well. So too, we do not set the boundaries between wilderness and garden, we do not create the road out of the wilderness, as if by constructing our own path or following our own ways—or even looking to our own survival—are we saved, healed, and restored to our place within creation. Those boundaries assure us of life, as well.

Instead the pace of Lent, and the road through Holy Week turn us from aimless wandering and set the pace of life as it truly is; we live between the

boundaries of cross and death and resurrection to eternal life. We walk in a valley of death, and yet also a garden of life.

It is the purpose of our Christian pilgrimage—to have the structures and fabrics of this life rearranged according to God’s life in, through, and among us. The cross is the signpost along the way, and not the end and thankfully, not our end with God. But walking the way of the cross is walking also towards the garden. Our human folly is revealed if we believe ourselves to be in the garden and not on the road, though. “The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing” St. Paul writes in First Corinthians, “but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” The cross reveals our own limits and boundaries of knowledge to care and sustain this creation—we are not God. But from that cross-walk, we cross over to a new road; we await resurrection, renewal, and transformation in the Body of Christ.

It is not often that we experience life as a walk through a garden, as the idiom goes. We don’t experience life as often with ease, but as work. Ask any gardener, however, and they’ll remind us just how much daily work it takes to maintain the boundaries and health and growth even of the soil itself. Such is the road that took God’s people



home from their exile and wandering—the work that transformed them, to tend the garden as we were intended. To be part of this world, not creators of our own worlds. And, God leads us on this road, out of our wandering and out of the wilderness.

–Pastor Thomas

Sanctuary Safety Update

Safety Update - after careful consideration by the Building Advisory Team and the Congregational Council, we will stain the edge (or 'nose') of the steps in the sanctuary a darker color to improve contrast with the rest of the floor. A contractor will perform this work in late March. We expect the new look to maintain the upgrades made during the remodel and provide better safety when moving about the sanctuary.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

2 FROM THE PASTOR

4 LIVING GENEROUSLY

5 WORSHIP & MUSIC

8 FAITH FORMATION

10 COMMUNITY

11 FAITH IN ACTION

OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Thomas Voelp, Pastor
pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net
(206) 783-7900 ext. 2
- Gian Foddai, Informal Worship & Music Director
gianfranco@ourredeemers.net
- Kenna Hight, Faith Formation Coordinator
faithformation@ourredeemers.net
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director
karen@ourredeemers.net
- Debbie Lematta, Communications Coordinator
communications@ourredeemers.net
- Lake Neill, Service Coordinator
neilllake13@gmail.com
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator
administrator@ourredeemers.net

Office Phone: (206) 783-7900

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10am-3pm

OUR VISION: 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.



Cover Photo by Kara Vorozheeva on Unsplash

What's Happening in April

April 1, Tuesday	7 PM - Executive Committee Meeting
April 2, Wednesday	5 PM - B.A.T. Meeting 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
April 3, Thursday	7 PM - Informal Worship Band Rehearsal
April 4, Friday	6 PM - F(e)asting Together Lent Dinner Soprano's Pizza
April 5, Saturday	9 AM - Liturgical Arts Team 1 PM - Altar Taskforce Meeting 2 PM - Easter Hand Bells Rehearsal
April 6, Sunday	9 AM - Informal Worship 9 AM - Sprouts In-Person Downstairs 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation Library 10 AM - Embodied Church Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship
April 7, Monday	5 PM - Church Ladies Beer Night Old Stove Gardens
April 8, Tuesday	7 PM - Church Council Meeting
April 9, Wednesday	7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
April 10, Thursday	7 PM - Informal Worship Band Rehearsal
April 11, Friday	6 PM - F(e)asting Together Lent Dinner Soprano's Pizza
April 12, Saturday	2 PM - Easter Hand Bells Rehearsal 3 PM - Easter Orchestra Rehearsal
April 13, Sunday PALM/PASSION SUNDAY	9 AM - Informal Worship 9 AM - Sprouts In-Person Downstairs 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation Library 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship
April 16, Wednesday	7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
April 17, Thursday MAUNDY THURSDAY	6 PM - Maundy Thursday Service
April 18, Friday GOOD FRIDAY	12 PM - 24 Hour Prayer Vigil Begins 3 PM - Meditation on the Cross Sanctuary or online 7 PM - Tenebrae & Prayer Around the Cross
April 19, Saturday	2 PM - Easter Hand Bells Rehearsal 3 PM - Easter Orchestra Rehearsal
April 20, Sunday EASTER SUNDAY	6:30 AM - Sunrise Service Carkeek Park 8:30 AM - Easter Breakfast Our Redeemer's 9 AM - Easter Festival Worship 10:10 AM - Easter Egg Hunt Front Yard 11 AM - Easter Festival Worship
April 21, Monday	Church Office Closed 11 AM - Monthly Volunteer Grounds Crew
April 22, Tuesday	Bishop's Convocation Begins
April 23, Wednesday	7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
April 24, Thursday	7 PM - Informal Worship Band Rehearsal
April 25, Friday	5 PM - Youth Coffee Hangout Ballard Coffee Works
April 26, Saturday	11 AM - Caring Community Team
April 27, Sunday	9 AM - Informal Worship 9 AM - Sprouts In-Person Downstairs 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation Library 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship
April 28, Monday	9 AM - 12 PM - Church Grounds Work Party
April 30, Wednesday	7 PM - Choir Rehearsal



Living Generously

Mission Budget FY 2024-2025 July-February

(66.67% thru FY)

Our Redeemer's regularly publishes a Mission Budget report to keep congregants informed about the current financial health of the church.

See the church's Feb. 2025 Financial Snapshot at this link: <https://bit.ly/4kYbWQt>.

If you have questions or concerns about Our Redeemer's financial status, contact Karie Stearns, administrator@ourredeemers.net.



Income	2024-2025 Approved Budget	Income Thru 02.28.25	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget Year to Date
Envelope & Loose Offerings	515,075	310,532	60.3%	(32,852)
Church Use	84,375	56,457	66.9%	207
Fundraising (Auction)*	26,000	20,602	79.2%	3,268
Interest	500	408	81.5%	74
TOTAL INCOME	625,950	387,997	62.0%	(29,303)
Expenses	2024-2025 Approved Budget	Expenses Thru 02.28.25	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget Year to Date
Social Justice/Outreach	52,827	31,053	58.8%	(4,165)
Pastoral Staff	122,033	75,353	61.7%	(6,002)
Worship & Music	67,609	42,716	63.2%	(2,356)
Fellowship & Caring	20,727	5,790	27.9%	(8,028)
Faith Formation	25,904	7,192	27.8%	(10,077)
Stewardship	8,418	5,482	65.1%	(130)
Communications	49,985	32,146	64.3%	(1,177)
Facilities	168,944	115,330	68.3%	2,701
Administration	166,169	84,547	50.9%	(26,232)
TOTAL EXPENSES	682,616	399,611	58.5%	(55,466)
NET INCOME (Loss)	(56,666)	(11,614)		26,164

For questions/concerns, to set up giving, or to change your giving, please contact Administrator, Karie Stearns at administrator@ourredeemers.net. Thank you for your support!

Celebrating April Birthdays!

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Susan Hanson | 6 Britta Walstrom | 20 Ardene Adams |
| 1 Judith Malmgren | 10 Tyler Glover | 21 Emily Hendricks |
| 1 Kirsten Malone | 12 Sienna Seyler | 21 Laurie Soine |
| 2 Stephanie Fowler | 13 Christina Forssen | 21 Rachel Stenberg |
| 2 Jeanne Gersten | 15 Morgan Fowler | 22 Pamela Altman |
| 2 Aden Michaelsen | 15 Paul Kalina | 24 Sarah Uhlemann |
| 3 Torin Ege | 16 Genevieve Knight | 26 Mandy Neill |
| 3 Lucas Frantz | 17 Ava Haroldson | 26 Jan Ward |
| 3 Carolyn Swanson | 17 Candace Todd-Robbins | 27 Jacoby Wander |
| 4 Kris Templin | 18 Hazel Prentice | 30 Nora Jancola |
| 5 Randy Smith | 19 Earl Ecklund | |



Worship and Music



Please contact Karen Lee if you're interested in participating: karen@ourredeemers.net.

Easter Hand Bell Ensemble and Orchestra by Karen Lee, Traditional Worship Music Director

You are invited to play an orchestral instrument or hand bells for both the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Easter services at Our Redeemer's on Sunday, April 20th! Even if you've never played hand bells before, I can arrange an easy part for you to learn how – it's fun! And if you play an instrument, it's wonderful to play in a group – join us! One hour rehearsals will be as follows:

Saturday, April 5
Hand Bells only - 2:00 pm

Saturday, April 12
Hand Bells - 2:00 pm
Orchestra - 3:00 pm

Saturday, April 19
Hand Bells - 2:00 pm
Orchestra - 3:00 pm

Let's make a joyful noise
for Easter!

Altar Task Force Update

The Altar Task Force has met twice since forming, and we have a good number of members. Council has now confirmed the members of the Task Force and, given its size, has decided to end "enrollment!" We've had lively, meaningful, and productive discussions. Out of these meetings we have explored our sense of purpose and have started to consider the form and function of an altar. We've developed a mission statement, shared ideas, and discussed our needs and goals. We will be appointing a design team within the group to move forward with our mission and concretize necessary features.

- Marie Nordquist, Chair
- Pastor Thomas, Council Partner



Donate Tulips in Memory/In Honor of a Love One

Please consider flowers given in memory of - or to honor - a loved one in your life, and help us to decorate our sanctuary on Easter with your donated flowers. Your loved one's name will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin. (We also except donations just for the joy of tulips beautifying our sanctuary for Easter.)



Donate any amount you wish in the flower envelopes located at church or use the QR Code here. Thank you!



Worship and Music



“Community Cross”

Bring flowers to decorate our Community Cross on Easter Sunday!

We had a community Christmas tree to decorate this year, why not a community cross, too? Taking down our Christmas tree this year, we thought about the image of Christ and the glory of Christmas, counterposed with the humility and starkness of Good Friday—the glory and worship of the newborn king, and the messiah who is crowned with thorns. **We are turning our Christmas trees into a cross we will use during the Good Friday service, placed in the sanctuary in the same spot it stood throughout December.** We will prepare it on Holy Saturday with wire, so we can decorate it and further transform this cross as a community with flowers and ribbons. Bring flowers with you as you come for Easter services! We will have some flowers ready for those who cannot bring some, but nevertheless, want to participate. Please do not use the flowers growing on our landscape!! Please contact Pastor Thomas if you have questions!



24-Hour Prayer Vigil and Prayers

Prayer Vigil Sign up: <https://bit.ly/4bhUaDB>

Jesus asked his disciples to watch and wait with him before his crucifixion. In Luke’s gospel, we are told that those who had followed him to Jerusalem watched his crucifixion and death in silence. We are told that around noon on the day of his death, darkness came over the land. As in Advent, the darkness evokes our watching for the sunlight of the new day on the eastern horizon, and the great expectation for God’s glory to shine on the awaited day of hope and transformation. **Our 24-vigil is a tradition of keeping watch, vigilance, lament, hope, and prayer. It is a time of candle-lighting, reflection, meditation, silence and song.** This year, we will continue our tradition to keep watch in 1-hour shifts, from noon on Good Friday to noon on Holy Saturday. Please sign up to keep watch this year in this meaningful and heart-felt tradition. Sign up sheets will be available beginning March 30. Door codes will be emailed with further instructions for the safety and care of the building. Contact Pastor Thomas for more information.

We will be collecting and organizing prayers to be prayed by those signing up to keep watch during the vigil, starting March 30 through Wednesday of Holy Week. If you have special prayers you’d like to contribute, please either email Pastor Thomas during these dates noting it is for the vigil, to distinguish from our weekly prayer list requests, or write your prayers and leave them in the basket near the prayer station in the sanctuary.

Sign Up to Participate or Help Out this Season!

We ask everyone to take part or help with our April services and events. Sign up for: Lent Devotions, participating in the Good Friday Prayer Vigil, helping out at our Easter Sunrise service at Carkeek Park, Easter Worship at 9:00 am and 11:00 am, Easter breakfast, etc. Sign up at these links. Thank you for what you can do!

- Lent Devotion Sign up: <https://bit.ly/4k7yUUY>
- Prayer Vigil Sign up: <https://bit.ly/4bhUaDB>
- Easter Sunday Volunteer Sign up: <https://bit.ly/41vPOAq>



Holy Week at Our Redeemer's

Holy Week this year will continue to be framed by our Lenten theme, "God's People are Formed in Wilderness." As we walk the road to the Christ's cross, we are met on the way by a God who gives us strength for the journey, and assures we do not walk alone. As we await the day of resurrection, we live in the joy and in the image of Christ, as his Body in the world.

April 13: Palm Sunday

Beginning outside the sanctuary with joyful palms raised and acclamations, we will process in, moved by Christ's coming as God's holy messiah. We celebrate this high point in light of his following crucifixion and death, and follow this humble king within his disciples from joy and elation, to sorrow and bewilderment. Contact Gianfranco Foddai (gianfranco@ourredeemers.net) to help with music for Palm Sunday.

April 17: Maundy Thursday - 6 PM

The liturgy starts with foot-washing, followed by communion and the stripping of the altar. This is an interactive service remembering the last supper of Jesus and his disciples before his crucifixion.

April 18: Good Friday

3:00 pm – Join us in person or online for this special marking of the death of Jesus and a meditation on the cross, through prayers and chants of the church. In this moment of prayer and lament, we mark the time when Jesus breathed his last.

7:00 pm - Our service of on the crucifixion of Christ reflects on the tradition of Tenebrae (Shadows). In this service of darkness and candlelight, we keep watch and hear of his passion and death through Scripture, silence, and singing. This moving service is a special and well-loved tradition at Our Redeemer's.

April 18-19: Good Friday - 24-hour Prayer Vigil

Beginning at noon on Good Friday, and continuing until noon on Holy Saturday, we invite individuals to sign up to pray for an hour, keeping watch at the church. The sanctuary and chapel will be set up for meditation and some materials for meditation and the prayers of our congregation will be provided. There is a deep sense of the sacred when one is praying in the dark and quiet of the middle of the night while we remember Christ's death and burial. **Prayer Vigil Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/4bhUaDB>.

April 20: Easter Sunday

***Sunrise Service – 6:30 am in Carkeek Park**

Join us in the early hours of the morning for a service of light and resurrection! Celebrate holy communion, and rejoice and be glad. He is risen indeed! Contact Pastor Thomas to help make this service happen – we need many hands.

***Festival Easter Worship – 9:00 am & 11:00 am at Our Redeemer's**

Christ is risen! Come and blow the trumpets, ring the bells, and spread the Good News! We worship with joy and thanksgiving at the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Contact Karen Lee (karen@ourredeemers.net) to be part of the choir, hand bells, or orchestra!

***Easter Breakfast – 8:30 am – 10:00 am at Our Redeemer's**

Warm yourself after the sunrise service with a hearty breakfast at Our Redeemer's! Volunteers are needed and welcome to help make this meal happen. Please contact Bob Carlson (carlson_21776@msn.com) for more information, and sign up to help! Please contact Lake Niell (neilllake13@gmail.com) if you need help signing up. Please make a contribution (need new giving link) to defray the cost of the breakfast. Thank you!

Easter Egg Hunt – 10:10 am at Our Redeemer's

All children are invited to bring a basket and hunt for eggs on our front lawn (weather permitting). Contact Paula Hlastala (paulala343@hotmail.com) to help organize and plan, and for more information!

**Many Hands are needed to help out on Easter. Contact Pastor Thomas or Lake Neill or sign up or use the links on the previous page. <<*



Faith Formation



Faith Formation: Hope, Love, and Justice

This is the third in a series I was asked to share examining our leadership's vision and approach to Faith Formation and Justice for Our Redeemer's. Last time, I examined some frameworks within our Lutheran beliefs that help ground ourselves for putting faith into action. Grace and faith are the mainstay of our life in Christ; God accomplishes justice then, by trusting God to transform us and work through us. This time, I explore the importance of hope, and the activeness of love.

Already this year, we have heard about love in the Scriptures. Jesus speaks to how we are to love our enemies. Since this is the year of Luke in our lectionary cycle, it is only fitting that we notice the parable of the Good Samaritan. Trusting that even one of those we might call an "enemy" could do good, that God could use them for good work is the fulcrum

for turning the minds and hearts of those who hear this parable. Jesus is asked about the greatest commandment, and gives two, love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself. But Jesus takes the form of neighbor and affirms what he said in the Sermon on the Mount; "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them." (Note it is strongly implied that sinners may be general here to give the sense to listeners might instinctively think of those in opposition to them as living unjustly. It is essentially to draw us out of ourselves so that we might see in our "enemies" a mirror to our own attitudes.) All this is to say the love of enemies—a command—is not just work, it is the work of love itself.

Love is relationship in scripture—it is obligation, even by covenant. For example, marriage is a covenant relationship between people and their families—so marriage is powered by love. Love is not romantic or has the feels attached to it. Jesus is speaking to a community that is expansive—God's reconciliation of all things in Christ recreates a "kin-dom," in which all things are hemmed in by the wide embrace of God. God's love for the world, just as our love for one another, is a sacred obligation. Further, it is obligation to care, to serve, to be merciful. We don't do this perfectly. We do this, as Jesus implies, in limited ways or we confine love to family or friends. But we don't just live here—we have life together here. So by seeing that enemies are to be loved, restores the original good—relationships established by God. Love is action. It is not a feeling, although feeling strongly connected to someone as one would a friend or close family member, means that we might enact that love in care and service more willingly. Further, love is right—relationship with God and other creatures. Thus, "who is my neighbor?" has such an expansive answer in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

We believe also that, like faith, love is a gift of the Spirit. It reveals the reality of this world: we are all interconnected and our actions affect the whole. Who we choose to care for has not only implications, but impact on the world. Who we believe God is working through—or could work through!—impacts our love for them. Our desire to care, our willingness to help and support, our sense of life lived together is a matter of right—relationship, which God gives through love for, to, in, and through creation. Love as a gift is the gift of life together. A worldwide community.

Primarily, the church has taught us by John's Gospel "love one another" as a general command to love others we may even despise or oppose. Still, the Gospel of John is written for a generally insular community—one being persecuted and on the outs with Jewish and Roman authorities. The command to love one another in this context can be not to love one's enemies, but to stay true to the body of Christ. "By this, they will know you are my disciples." But overall, we take a different approach.

In justice work, the work of love is a realization of our impact and capacity to harm. It is also a realization that we will not be perfect in anything we may do—even in love. For Christians, this becomes even more emphasized, and our humility means our openness and trust that God can work such good in the world, and that it is not only God's desire, but God's will done through reconciliation. Right—relationship is the work of justice in the gift of love. But imagining how we might work for the mutual benefit and good of all, how we might dismantle the unjust structures that keep us from living into this inter-relational work that is God's creation, takes some inspiration. It takes trust that God is working, even in the places and people we don't expect.

Hope is imagination. Hope is a belief—a trust that God is working. Hope is a trust that things not only can and will change, but are being changed, and fully changeable. Faith-in-action may be love, but it begins with the holy imagining of God—a vision for a new world—a world as it is meant to be.

More on that next time!
– Pastor Thomas



Faith Formation



Kenna's Korner

Youth Faith Formation News and Updates

by Kenna Hight, Faith Formation Coordinator (faithformation@ourredeemers.net)

Send Your Child to Vacation Bible School

9 AM - Noon Daily, July 28-August 1 | Our Redeemer's

Looking for a Summer Camp for the kids? Then have them join Our Redeemer's for an exciting week (**July 28-August 1**) at *God's New Creation*, a faith-filled Vacation Bible School where kids will explore God's love through fun, hands-on activities! Designed for children of all ages, this engaging program is based on ELCA World Hunger's VBS curriculum and focuses on the vital role of animals in ending hunger around the world. Use the QR code here to register and immerse your child in a



summer of faith, fun, and making a difference at Vacation Bible School! Registrations submitted by the end of May will earn a \$15 discount. We are also looking for volunteers; if you are interested, email Kenna or use the sign-up sheet at church!

F(e)asting Together in Lent Continues

Fridays, 6 PM | April 4 & April 11 | Soprano's Pizza & Pasta, 7729 24th Ave NW

Join us at our weekly get-togethers every Friday leading up to Holy Week as we connect over the wildernesses we are currently experiencing and witnessing. We will be meeting at Sopranos at 6:00 pm. All are welcome, and signup is not required! Just come hungry for food and conversation!

Monthly Youth Group Coffee Hangouts

Mondays, 6 PM | Starting April 28 | Ballard Coffee Works, 2060 NW Market Street

Starting on April 28th, we will be hosting monthly coffee hangouts at Ballard Coffee Works for youth from grades 7-12. These hangouts will be focused on connection and lightly structured theology-themed conversation. All are welcome; let us know if your teenager is interested or if you'd like to volunteer to chaperone!



HOLDEN VILLAGE

Join Our Redeemer's for a special week at Holden Village, July 13-20. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect, reflect, and learn in the beauty of the Cascades.

Self-register directly through Holden Village: <https://www.holdenvillage.org>.

Rooms are still available, but sign up soon to be sure you get a spot!

Questions? Contact Tad Anderson – tadand99@gmail.com | (206-445-5052) or Cindy Anderson – cindyrowanderson@gmail.com | (206-351-4098).

Embodied Church: What Nature Teaches us about Community

Sunday, April 6, 10 AM | Fellowship Hall

What do the trees and soil and wild animals have to teach us about who we are as a church community and how we might navigate this "wilderness" we find ourselves in as a country? Plenty. All ages are invited to come learn more about the answers to these big political and social questions found right outside our windows in what Luther referred to as the second Bible: nature.





Community



Connect, Unwind, and Build Community with the Women of Our Redeemer's!

Monday, April 7, 5 PM | Old Stove Gardens Brewery

Looking for a warm and welcoming space to relax and connect? Join the "Church Ladies" of Our Redeemer's for an evening of great conversation, delicious food, and refreshing drinks! This monthly gathering is all about building friendships, offering support, and strengthening our ties with one another and our community.

If you identify as female, we'd love for you to be part of it! We meet at 1550 NW 49th St, near the Ballard Bridge, where you can enjoy a variety of food and drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic options available). Free parking is nearby. If you need a ride or have questions, reach out to Kari Guddal at kari_guddal@outlook.com. We look forward to seeing you there!



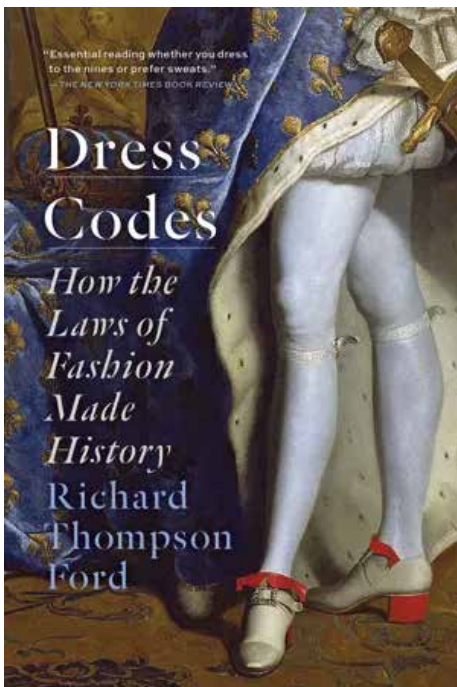
Join Us for a Community Garden Work Party!

Monday, April 28, 9 AM - Noon | Our Redeemer's Gardens

Help keep our garden beds and community spaces thriving as we come together to care for the earth! Bring your favorite gardening tools and lend a hand with weeding, pruning, or ivy removal. Tasks will be based on group interest and skills, with opportunities to work in the front garden beds, the Peace Garden, or tackle invasive ivy.

Whether you're an experienced gardener or just looking to help out, all are welcome. Come connect with others, enjoy the outdoors, and make a difference in our shared space!

Questions? Contact Carol Hurlburt, chtd015@gmail.com or Connie Sandstrom, conniesandstrom05@gmail.com.



Madonna's Book Group

Sunday, May 4, 3 PM | Our Redeemer's

The next Madonna's meeting is on May 4th, 3:00 pm at church to discuss the book **Dress Codes**, by Richard Thompson Ford. Everyone identifying as female are welcome to Contact Lynne at buckomcneill@yahoo.com to get on the group's mailing list.

In Dress Codes, Richard Thompson Ford explores how fashion has long been a marker of status, control, and social change. From medieval sumptuary laws to modern workplace norms, dress codes have shaped power dynamics and social mobility. With sharp insight, Ford reveals the hidden influence of clothing, proving that fashion is far from superficial.



Faith in Action

Supporting Our Community Through Ballard Sunday Dinner by Amy Borgmeyer

Is there anything more mundane than having to figure out what to eat for dinner yet again? The choosing, the buying, the preparing—it can all feel like a chore. And just when you're done, it's time to do it all over again the next day.

And yet, is there any feeling more communal than sharing a meal with someone?

Acts 2:46 speaks of breaking bread together with glad and sincere hearts as one of the core ways the early Christian community grew in faith and served one another. Taking time to be together and care for each other fosters deeper connections. Many of us experience this joy with our families and friends, and through the Ballard Sunday Dinner initiative, we have the opportunity to share it with our neighbors in need.



As many of you know, the Ballard Sunday Dinner initiative has been a cornerstone of our community outreach, providing hot, wholesome meals to our neighbors in need. This effort is a collaboration among four area churches: Ballard First Lutheran, Our Redeemer's Lutheran, Trinity United Methodist, and Northwest Christian Church. Each church takes turns providing a meal one Sunday evening each month, with our congregation not only participating in cooking, serving, and cleaning but also financially supporting the ministry through reimbursements and contributions to its overall administration costs.

As I step down from the coordinator role after a wonderful three years, I am deeply grateful for all the support and for each volunteer I've had the privilege to work with. While I transition out of this role, I look forward to continuing to cook and serve alongside such a dedicated group. Over the years, we've navigated many changes—attendance has ebbed and flowed, we've adapted our strategies during the pandemic, and we've even faced the occasional power outage in the middle of dinner. Through it all, Our Redeemer's has remained a steadfast partner in this ministry.

I'd love to have you join in making a difference by helping out at Ballard Sunday Dinner! It's a tangible way to support our shared humanity. Sign up here: <https://rb.gy/ea817>. Thank you for helping to spread kindness in our community!



Help Keep the Recycling Roundup Going!

by Ben Kalina, Member of Council

The Recycling Roundup event at Our Redeemer's has long been a popular community event, giving people the opportunity to recycle bikes, Styrofoam, and electronics in a convenient and responsible way. Held in the church parking lot, it draws participants from neighborhoods across the area and typically takes place in both the spring and fall.

However, with the recent departure of the event's leader, we now need someone to step up and take the lead to ensure this tradition continues.

If you're passionate about sustainability and community engagement, this is a great opportunity to make an impact by leading, organizing, and planning the event. Plenty of guidance and resources are available from past organizers, who are happy to offer support to you.

If you're interested in leading this spring's event—and future ones—please reach out to Pastor Thomas (pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net). Your efforts can help keep this valuable initiative alive. Thank you for considering!



2400 NW 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98117

www.ourredeemers.net
(206)783-7900

return service requested

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM Informal Worship
11 AM Traditional Worship

Stream Online on Sundays (11 AM)
Facebook: [facebook.com/OurRedeemers](https://www.facebook.com/OurRedeemers)
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>

Church office hours:
Monday-Thursday
10 AM - 3PM

Holy Week

April 13, Palm/Passion Sunday
9 & 11 AM >> Palm/Passion Worship

April 17, Maundy Thursday
6 PM >> Interactive Service

April 18 Good Friday
12 PM >> 24-hr Prayer Vigil begins
3 PM >> Prayer & Meditation on the Cross
7 PM >> Good Friday Service of Tenebrae

April 20 Easter Sunday
6:30 AM >> Sunrise Service, Carkeek Park
8:30-10:00 AM >> Easter Breakfast- Fellowship Hall
10:10 AM >> Easter Egg Hunt
9 & 11 AM >> Festival Easter Worship



Follow Us on Instagram!



Like Us on Facebook!



View Our YouTube Channel