

APRIL 2026

GOODNews



Ladies' Night
Old Stove Gardens Apr 6

Holden Evening Prayer,
Dinner, and Update Apr 11

Neighborhood E-cycling &
Styrofoam Round-Up Apr 25

Beach Cleanup Retreat
Pacific Beach Apr 24-26

Lutheran World Relief
Collection May 1-2

Date Change:
Breaking Bread Dinner May 2

Believe:
Easter & Hope

A Community in the Model of Christ

Believe: The Easter Hope



(Did you know, Daffodils are also called “Easter Bells?”)

I did something this year I hadn’t before; though I hung it in place that it wouldn’t be too jostled, I left my Christmas wreath up through March 21. The smell of the pine, and the green of the wreath was a visualization of the cycle of nature through the seasons, and the green that would return when the frost melted. **Believing** in the promise of Spring can take some faith—especially when it snows in Seattle mid-March! Nevertheless, the blooming stone-fruit trees, bulbs, and magnolias in our neighborhood are a bright reminder that the cold of winter has broken.

Our ancestors once looked to Spring as the end of the hunger gap—a time when food stocks ran low and needed replenishing. A long winter, preventing growth of needed plants to feed both people and livestock, could have powerful and frightening implications for communities. The greens of Yuletide—reminders of the Spring to come—were often replaced with the fresh colors of the season to bring joy where there had been fear and hope. **To have signs of life and warmth meant hope for those who were hungry and huddled masses.**

In Advent, we looked at *belief* as hope in what is promised—looking for the signs of God’s light, as the dawn before daybreak. Not hoping in what we can see, but what remains to be seen—a world that is yet to become whole. **Hope in this way is a matter for faith—courage and trust that what is prepared is enough to outlast the darkness.** Through Epiphany and Lent, we recognized God in the familiar—looking for the works of God in the life of God’s prophets, as in Jesus’ life and work. Our hope is set on Jesus, that in *becoming* like us, and through his example of how God inhabits our world even bound in sin, we take strength, and can trust that God is present in and through us. In taking on the way God was in the world like us, we are called to *become* like Jesus—led by faith in God to be present for, with, and through us. **Imitating Jesus’ example, and following the way to the cross, being formed and turned toward those who suffer.**

But now, Easter gives us a second look at *belief*; the Easter hope is renewed and reinvigorated hope—indeed, it **transforms hope to see what life God has called into being. It draws our eyes to Christ in the world.** In raising Jesus, God reveals how we will also be changed. Not conformed or captive to the power of sin and life apart from God and independent of one another, but renewed in relationship to God and each other. Who we are becoming is given its form; God’s presence with us in Christ changes how we see the world bound in sin. Because Christ lives, we look in the places Jesus said he’d be—even in the places and situations that call us to defiantly live despite the cold, dark, or colorless shadows that are cast throughout the world. We can trust and encourage not only ourselves, but our neighbors and our friends, with the hope that **God appears for us out of the places the world claims as dead-ends.**

Easter presents the church with an opportunity to expect the face of Christ to show up in places of joy *and* darkness. Easter gives hope to the church that it can be present for and with the world, and strengthens our belief that Christ is present through it. **We look for Christ like we do flowers emerging from the frosty ground; we can look for them where we last saw them, and where we’ve planted them in the ground.** Still, when the sleeping buds awaken and appear in every place where the color of life can be found, we embrace the new life that springs forth. Happy Easter!

What's Happening in April

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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- 4 AUCTION UPDATE
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- 7 COMMUNITY EVENTS

April 1, Wednesday	7 PM - Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
April 2, Thursday	7 PM - Maundy Thursday
April 3, Friday	12 PM - 24-Hour Prayer Vigil Begins 3PM - Prayer & Meditation on the Cross 7 PM - Good Friday Service of Tenebrae
April 4, Saturday	9 AM - Liturgical Arts Team
April 5, Sunday	6:30 AM - Sunrise Service, Carkeek Park 8:00 AM - 10:45 AM - Easter Breakfast 10:10 AM - Easter Egg Hunt 9 AM & 11 AM - Festival Easter Worship
April 6, Monday	Office Closed - Easter Monday 5 PM - Church Ladies - Old Stove Gardens
April 7, Tuesday	Executive Committee Meeting
April 8, Wednesday	7 PM - Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
April 11, Saturday	5 PM Holden Village Evacuation & Recovery Update
April 12, Sunday	9 AM - Informal Worship 10 AM - ORCA: Harbor Seals (5-11 y/o); Sea Lions (6th grade) 10:15 AM - Otters (3-5 y/o) 11 AM - Traditional Worship
April 14, Tuesday	7 PM Church Council Meeting
April 15, Wednesday	7 PM - Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
April 16, Thursday	6:15 PM Youth Meetup at Next Level Burger
April 19, Sunday	9 AM - Informal Worship 10 AM - ORCA: Harbor Seals (5-11 y/o); Sea Lions (6th grade) 10:15 AM - Otters (3-5 y/o) 11 AM - Traditional Worship 2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner 4 PM Norwegian Women's Concert
April 22, Wednesday	7 PM Choir Rehearsal
April 24-26	Washington Coast Clean Up
April 25, Saturday	10 AM Community Recycling Event
April 26, Sunday	9 AM - Informal Worship 10 AM - ORCA: Harbor Seals (5-11 y/o); Sea Lions (6th grade) 10:15 AM - Otters (3-5 y/o) 11 AM - Traditional Worship
April 29, Wednesday	7 PM Choir Rehearsal
May 1-2	LWR In-Gathering
May 2, Saturday	9AM - 3PM LIVE Retreat 6 PM Breaking Bread Dinner

OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Thomas Voelp, Pastor
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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.



Celebrating April Birthdays

1	Susan Hanson	12	Sienna Seyler	19	Earl Ecklund
1	Kristen Malone	13	Christina Forssen	21	Emily Hendricks
1	Judith Malmgren	15	Morgan Fowler	21	Rachel Stenberg
2	Aden Michaelson	15	Paul Kalina	22	Pamela Altman
2	Stephanie Fowler	16	Genevieve Knight	26	Jan Ward
3	Torin Ege	17	Ava Haroldson	26	Mandy Neill
3	Carolyn Swanson	17	Candace Todd-Robbins	30	Tad Anderson
5	Randy Smith	18	Hazel Prentice		

We give thanks for the life of Shirley Holt - February 16, 2026 (b. May 31, 1936)



Hollywood Glamour–Auction 2026

Our Redeemer's rolled out the red carpet for 80 members and guests, who enjoyed an evening of glitz and glamour while beating this year's \$25,000 fundraising goal. More than 45 members and local businesses generously donated over 92 items for the silent and live auctions.

The March 7 event raised \$32,500 to support Our Redeemer's faith mission in the coming year, including \$9,050 for the Fund a Need Hearing Loop.

Our thanks to Karen Lee, who set the mood with movie-themed piano music ranging from Star Wars to Casablanca to Toy Story, as well as to auctioneers Tim Hunter and Pastor Thomas and their lively tag-team skills encouraging the evening's bidders.

Other highlights included a rousing game of Heads or Tails, a themed photo booth to pump up the glam, and a popular Dress Up Your Spud Bar. Twelve impressive desserts were donated for the Dessert Dash, which raised \$2,600!

We are beyond grateful for everyone who came, as well as the contributions and hard work of almost 30 volunteers. We hope you'll join us as an attendee or volunteer next year!

We also want to give a shout out to Diana Myers, our auction chair, without whom the auction would not have happened and to the rest of our wonderful auction team: Cindy Anderson, Jodi Duke, Aaron Duke, Tim Hunter, Susan Kimotho-Fegler, Anne McGrew, Mary Melvey, Kathleen Wilkes-Pierce. Along with a thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated and participated. Thank you for making our 2026 auction such a success!



Grounds Crew

Fridays, April 10th and 24th, 10am

Grounds Crew April dates: Friday April 10 and 24, 10 am- noon.

Gardening season is in full swing with our landscaping going gangbusters! Join us for pruning the rhododendrons and removing an evergreen vine, or tackling the remaining sidewalk ivy.

Lighter garden tasks are weeding the front beds, and the Peace Garden.

All gardening skill levels are welcome.

Please bring your favorite tools, but also communal tools to share.

Questions? Contact Connie Sandstrom at conniesandstrom05@gmail.com



Church Ladies Night

Monday, April 6, 5 PM | Old Stove Gardens Brewery

Did you know that the women and girls of Our Redeemer's gather monthly for fun and frivolity??? Our next get together will be Monday, April 6 at Old Stove Gardens, 1550 NW 49th Street. We start at 5 o'clock, but later arrivals are welcomed with open arms and hearts. It is an all ages venue with a variety of food and beverages. Last month we made very festive Easter bonnets. Some of us may even wear our Easter bonnets to the next gathering because, why not?? Hope to see you there.

Holden Village Evacuation & Recovery Update

Saturday, April 11 | 5-7 PM | Our Redeemer's

Join us for an informative and reflective evening with Bjorn Peterson, Co-Director of Holden Village, as he shares the story of Holden's evacuation and recovery following the December 2025 floods and landslides. Learn about the events leading up to the evacuation, then challenges faced by staff and caretakers, and plans for repairs to the road, intake pipe, and diversion dam.

The evening begins at 5:00 pm with a bread and soup dinner, followed by the presentation and slideshow at 6:00 pm, and will conclude with Holden Evening Prayer. This is a Synod-wide event, with Our Redeemer's serving as host. While there will be an opportunity for an offering for Holden Village, the focus is on coming together as a community to hear, reflect, and support one another through this story of resilience and hope.

Mark your calendar and come hear firsthand how this community continues to rebuild, and discover the courage, compassion, and faith that guide Holden Village forward.



Join Our Monthly Youth Meetup in March

Thursday, April 16, 6:15-7:30 PM | Next Level Burger

Our Youth Meetups happen every third Thursday of the month! It's a great chance to hang out, grab a burger, and catch up. Join Pastor Thomas in Ballard for our March gathering—and feel free to bring a friend along!

The Details:

- Friends are always welcome!
- No one will go hungry. We can cover meals as needed.
- Questions? If you have any questions or want to check in, feel free to contact Pastor Thomas.

Community E-Cycling Event

Shift Leads Needed

April 25th

We are looking for (2) shift leads for the event, a) to lead first shift (9:30-12:00) and be responsible for set-up and b) to lead second shift (12:00-2:15) and be responsible for take-down. Questions? Contact Connie Sandstrom at conniesandstrom05@gmail.com





Ballard Sunday Dinner

In Service to Our Neighbors - Help Out Every third Sunday, Ballard Sunday Dinner (BSD) partners with local churches at Ballard First Lutheran to serve a warm, nourishing meal to our neighbors in need. It's a simple act of kindness that can have a big impact.

Our next dinner is on April 19th, and we're looking for volunteers to lend a hand! No experience is necessary—our team will guide you every step of the way to ensure you feel comfortable and supported.

Join us in making a difference!

Sign up here: <https://rb.gy/ea817>

Thank you for helping us spread kindness in our community!



April Collections for the Ballard Food Bank

Thank you, people of Our Redeemer's, for your continued support of the Ballard Food Bank. In a recent note, Khalid, the Donor Relations Manager, shared that neighbors often express how much it means not only to receive food, but to have choices and feel respected in the process. Your generosity helps make that dignity possible. He writes, "Thank you for being part of a community that believes dignity should always come first."

In April, we will continue collecting non-perishable foods for the Ballard Food Bank, with a special need personal hygiene items. Think the letter "D" – Deodorant, Dental Care, and Diapers of all sizes. Thank you for continuing to donate!

Please note that the food bank cannot use 18-count egg cartons. They are able to reuse empty cartons that hold one dozen eggs, so please donate those instead.



Breaking Bread Community Dinners

Date changed to Saturday, **May 2**, 6 PM | Various Homes

Our next Breaking Bread Community Dinners will be held on Saturday, May 2. We're trying a Saturday gathering this time and hope it will make participation easier for those with Sunday schedule conflicts.

Breaking Bread is a great opportunity to connect with others in our faith community over a potluck meal and relaxed conversation. Sign-ups for hosts and participants will begin in March. We hope you'll plan to join us!

Questions? Contact Annie McGrew (annemcgrew@msn.com) or Cindy Anderson (cindyrowanderson@gmail.com).

LWR: Spring Collection Underway!

In-Gathering is planned for May 1 & 2

It's time to gather supplies for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. We're collecting the following:

- Lightweight, dark-colored bath towels (Target recommended)
- Sturdy toothbrushes, individually packaged
- 4oz. Bars of ivory or other non-scented soap
- Large, sturdy fingernail clippers

Donations can be dropped off at the church. Thank you!



Drag Church: REBIRTH

Saturday, April 4 7:30 PM | 7400 Woodlawn Ave NE, Seattle

This event is rooted in the belief that new beginnings require release. Through electrifying drag performances, a guided meditation, and intentional communal participation, REBIRTH invites us to envision something brand new and nurture the seeds of liberation and co-create the world we wish existed.

Hosted by Emmaus Table in partnership with Yaasify Jesus and Haus of Sutra, this spiritually inclusive, family-friendly gathering also features a fund raiser supporting Lambert House, supporting LGBTQ+ youth in our region. All faiths, no faith, and all identities are welcome.

Tickets are available here: bit.ly/dragchurch-rebirth



People of the Resistance:

Following Jesus in Times Such As This



New Hybrid Course at Our Savior's Lutheran in Everett

UPDATED DATES:

Sundays at 11:15 am on April 19, 26 and May 3, 10

What happens when our core values are under attack? Rev. Dr. Rick Rouse and Guest Rev. Dr. Michael Trice (Seattle University) will help participants explore how this "Bonhoeffer moment" calls people of faith to resist an unjust State and stand with the oppressed.

For more information contact Rick at rwrouse@comcast.net

The Traveler & the Bishop on American Democracy and Christian Nationalism

Sunday, April 26, 6:00pm at Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle

Free but registration required:

<https://www.ricksteves.com/travel-tips/travel-classes/travel-talks-with-rick>

Join Rick Steves for a European take on Trump and the state of American democracy (basically his "No Kings" rally speech, updated and with an indoor voice). Then, Lutheran Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee (ELCA) will share a hard look (inspired by scripture) at the perversion of Christianity called "Christian Nationalism." Rick's talk will share how history is speaking to us — and how, if we listen, we can better understand and meet the challenges facing democracy in the USA. And, whether you consider yourself a person of faith or not, Bishop Shelley's message will bring a new dimension to your thinking about the place of religion in the political discourse of our country.



Mystics and Mysticism

Saturday, May 2nd | 9am–3pm Edmonds Lutheran Church, Edmonds WA



Building on our Lenten course, this retreat invites participants to move from learning about the mystics to living with their wisdom. Through in-person practice and reflection, we will extend and deepen what we have explored together — bringing the contemplative insights of Christian mysticism into direct, embodied experience. Gathering in community, we will enter more fully into the stillness, silence, and sacred struggle that shaped the mystics we encountered. Through guided contemplative practices, communal reflection, and time apart, participants will explore how mystical wisdom nourishes both the personal spiritual journey and the life of communities navigating uncertain times. Together, we will ask: how does

this wisdom take root not only in our own lives, but in the congregations and communities we lead and serve? Our congregation has purchased a LIVE bundle. Use our event code, [LIVE2025](#) to register at no additional cost.



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return service requested

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM Informal Worship
11 AM Traditional Worship

Stream Online (11 AM)

Facebook: [facebook.com/OurRedeemers](https://www.facebook.com/OurRedeemers)

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>

Church office hours:

Monday-Thursday
10AM - 3PM

COMMUNITY RECYCLING EVENT

 Clean Styrofoam

 New & Used Electronics

 Computers, Printers,
Cables, & More!

For a full list of accepted electronics
visit www.livinggreentechnology.org

**APRIL
25TH**

Our Redeemers Parking Lot 2400
NW 85th St Seattle, WA 98117

office@ourredeemers.net

10AM-2PM

{206}783-7900

