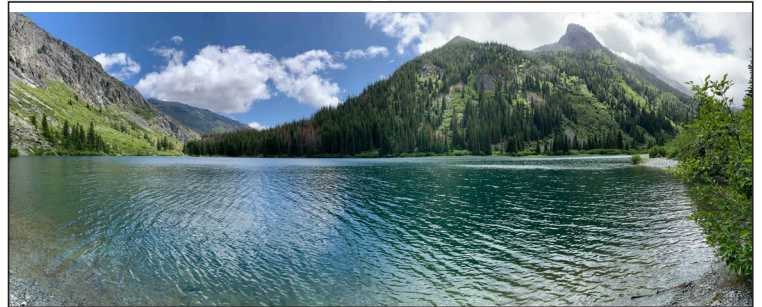


AUGUST 2019

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

TheVisitor



Heading out with Hope



A COMMUNITY IN THE MODEL OF CHRIST

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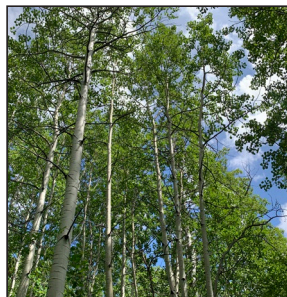
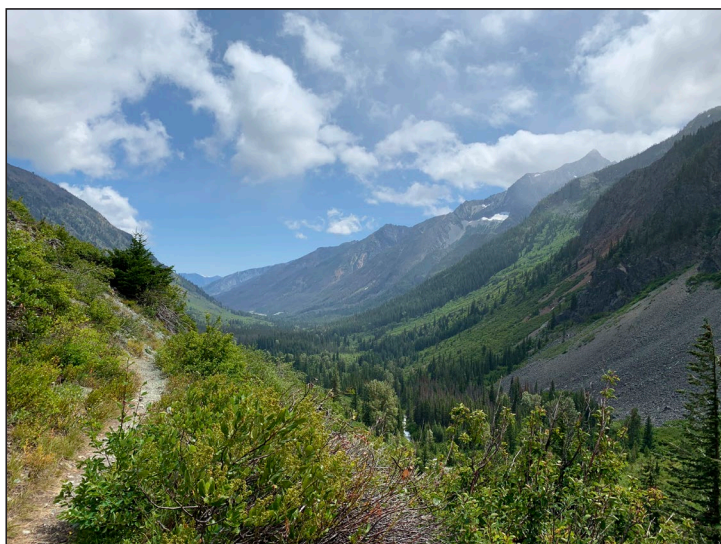
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COVER: Some of Our Redeemers' participants enjoying the Holden Village Retreat, July 2019

INSIDE COVER: Scenic views, conversations and fun at Holden Village, North Cascades

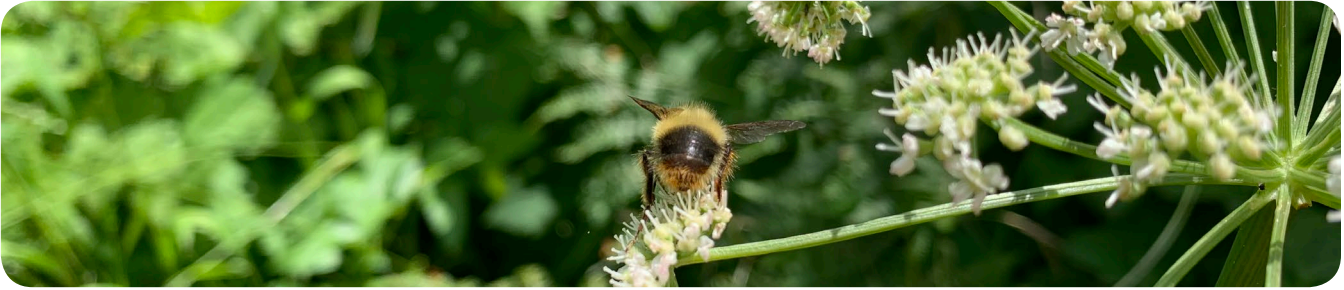


- Katherine Hawks, Pastor
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director
- Shannon Beck, Interim Social Justice Coordinator
- Jonath Ochs, Communications Coordinator
- Katlin Dickinson-Laurence, Data Base & Front Office Assistant
- Ronda Andrews, Welcome Minister
- Hannah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

Our community, our calling.

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FROM THE PASTOR...



The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:12

Summer is a time for refreshment and growth, a time to reconnect with ourselves and the earth. Summer for me also feels like a time of busy travel and camp and retreat and VBS and intentional time with my kids. It is a gift to have a congregation that loves to be together in ways that also allow my family to be together.

In July, Pastor Kathy and I had the opportunity to work together on a wedding in Suncadia, she presided at the service, and provided the musical leadership. The reading above was from that wedding, and in the hubbub that a wedding can be, that reading gave me pause, particularly the line *"the time of singing has come."* As a part of the ceremony, I was invited to write a blessing song, and instead of just singing it myself, I wrote a call-and-response song that asked the gathered crowd to sing their blessing with us as well. Now, this was a wedding of regular folks, most of whom don't sing on a regular basis. But at my request, they raised their voices, and sang their love back to the couple. It was lovely!

So many people have been told in the course of their life that "Perhaps singing is not your gift." But I am here to tell you that those people are wrong. Your voice, whether angelic or not, is a gift from God, and God loves to hear it. So sing!

Sing in the shower, sing in the car, sing to your children, sing in your church. If you haven't in a while, give it a shot! It's worth it.

Over this summer, as the time of singing has indeed come, we have so many opportunities to raise our voices together – at Holden Village, at our traditional weekly services, and at the summer worship services in the park every Sunday evening. Singing is a huge part of Vacation Bible School, and at confirmation camp. It is my hope that this summer, you find time not only to connect and reconnect with yourself and God, but to reconnect to your voice, offering tune and melody back to God.

Peace to you, and *sing out!*



Pastor Gretchen

BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION!

GIVE THE GNOME A HOME

Do you want to save Ballard P-Patch in perpetuity as a community garden? Then vote YES on Proposition 1 – King County 2020-2025 Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Levy!

If passed, Ballard P-Patch plans to apply for up to one third of the 1.8 million needed. A successful application would also allow for a matching grant from the King County Conservation Futures Tax. Together these two funding sources could raise the majority of the funds needed to purchase the garden!

The Ballard P-Patch team, along with Our Redeemer's Pastor Kathy Hawks, met with officials from King County in the garden in June. Our discussion focused on the importance of Ballard P-Patch, the significant cost to purchase the garden, and potential funding sources through the county. Following that conversation, we believe we could mount a successful application for funding from the levy and the Conservation Futures Tax.

The levy, part of the August 6 ballot, replaces an existing levy, passed by 80% of King County voters in 2014. This levy has an increase to those monies, which would cost property owners an additional \$2 per \$500,000 of tax assessed property. The levy is widely endorsed, and has no opposition. *The Seattle Times* and *The Stranger* have both supported passage: <https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/editorials/the-times-recommends-vote-yes-for-king-county-parks/>

<https://www.thestranger.com/features/2019/07/17/40780569/the-strangers-endorsements-for-the-august-6-2019-primary-election>

The specific language of the levy can be found here:

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/parks-recreation/parks/about/levy.aspx>

Give the Gnome a Home; vote YES on King County Parks Levy!



Photo: Sarah Brink



VISION-ALIGNED BUILDING COFFEE HOUR

August 25 after Worship

Bring your questions and input to this monthly casual opportunity to get the latest updates on our renovation plans. Members of the VAB team will be available.

BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION!

VAB WORKSHOP UPDATE

by Pastor Kathy



On June 26, 30-some members of Our Redeemer's joined 4 members of the architectural firm guiding our building renovations for a workshop to solicit

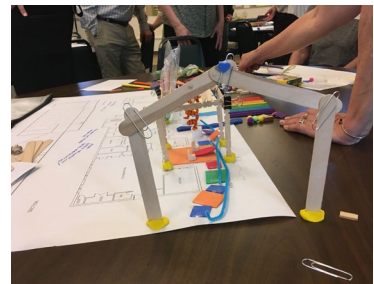
ideas and input as we move from the schematic design phase into design development. SHKS, our architects, have done an extremely thorough job of considering how our building is used every day of the week, every hour of the day, throughout the year. This has allowed them to be very strategic about how to use the space we have more effectively. For example, do we need more meeting space? And if so, how much? Is our sanctuary adequate not only from week to week, but also on holidays? How does staff work together? And being strategic about our program and building use has, in turn, allowed them to propose design and upgrade options to the City of Seattle that will, in all likelihood, keep our costs within our budget.

The workshop in June was open to all, young and old. After a shared meal, we spent time considering the moments we cherished most in our time at Our Redeemer's. Each of us also chose a role (Pre-school parent; someone in the neighborhood; etc.), and imagined how, if we did find ourselves in that role, we would think and feel about this facility. Then, we divided into groups based on some of the key design priorities Our Redeemer's gave SHKH to help us achieve. With all kinds of fun (and therefore, inhibition-reducing) materials (see the photos), we were invited to consider and brainstorm design possibilities to address one of the design priorities. Then, we all walked around and heard what the other groups had come up with.

At that point, we were all surprised at how much similarity there was in the ideas and concerns people raised. SHKS summarized the similarities this way:

- Improve connection between fellowship hall and outdoors
- Edit landscape for visibility and access
- Use of color or landscape elements to clarify entrance
- Possibility of water feature or fire pit in landscaping
- Narthex as preparatory space to transition mindset for worship

Energy at the workshop was good! Our architects said it was helpful to them in confirming the directions we are going, and raising the importance of a few things. Another congregation-wide time will for review and input will be scheduled when the designs are largely complete. In the meantime, be sure to come to the VAB coffee hours to stay current with what the Vision-Aligned Building Team and the architects (and soon, the contractor) have been doing, ask your questions, and share your thoughts.





GRATEFUL ~ The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks

by Diana Butler Bass

(This is the first *Visitor* article based on an interview with this author from faithandleadership.com. Look for more in coming months.)

Diana Butler Bass admits she's not good at gratitude. She has trouble keeping a gratitude journal, and she struggles writing thank-you notes. This prompted her to delve more deeply into gratitude in her new book, "[Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks](#)," She discovered gratitude is not just a private feeling but is also social, connecting us as individuals with others.

"There's a different way to live that's really possible. And I think that gratitude is one of the gateways into that world," she said.

Bass says **there are two levels of gratitude** that are very important for us to grasp.

One is the simple burst of thankfulness that comes with seeing a beautiful sunset or a time my dog was lost and then was returned to me.

But what happens if there's a great injustice or if you are living in a situation where there's abuse or violence? One of the interesting things is that people who have been through great suffering and come through it have developed some level of [gratitude] that actually helped them to survive.

Elie Wiesel, for example, is not thankful for the Holocaust. He would have rather had the Holocaust not happen. But at the same time, he talks of how, when they were in the camps, it was the people who could wake up in the morning and see the sunshine and say, "Thank God I'm alive one more day" or, "Look at how lovely that cloud is" who were more able to carry on.

Those people could see through the evil and find that there was a moment of grace or the presence of wonder or a token of love even in the midst of the most horrible situations. That's where the empowerment comes.

Gratitude is a feeling, and it's an action. And it's different than the structure we usually operate from--what I call a structure of debt and duty.

Many people find gratitude difficult because we largely think of it in terms of some benefactor giving us a gift. We are the beneficiaries of that gift, and we're in debt. We say this all the time -- "I owe you a debt of gratitude."

So we're in debt to the benefactor until we discharge that debt. And that debt gets discharged by all kinds of things -- giving a return gift, sending a thank-you note, doing a favor in return.

That cycle of reciprocity has often been structured in Western society hierarchically. You have a person who's a benefactor, who's richer or has resources, who then gives a benefit to people who are without the capacity to have those things themselves.

It is extremely transactional. It is really a vision of exchange, and it's almost always economically imagined.

But that's not the structure that the Bible puts on gratitude. In the Bible, it's about abundance and table fellowship and the sharing of gifts for free without any expectation of return.

One of my favorite verses in the whole of the New Testament comes from Luke, where Jesus says that when you give a dinner, don't just invite your relatives and your rich friends in expectation that you're creating a quid pro quo system -- he actually says that, that they'll pay you back -- but instead, when you give a banquet, you invite the poor, the crippled, all those people who can never afford to repay you.

So Jesus actually disconnects [the structure]. He literally says to invite the poor because you will not get any payback. There will be no payback; there is no quid pro quo.

Look for more on this great new book in *Our Redeemer's* September *Visitor*.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Summer Worship in the Park *by Pastor Gretchen*

It takes a Village

Our summer worship schedule continues for the month of August! This summer we have been taking a new approach to the informal service. Everyone is invited to join us in-person at parks around north Seattle, or online through FaceBook live. Services will be at 7pm, with a bonfire as often as we are able to manage it! We have been having songs, prayers, a sermon, and communion each week – just like our normal services. We will be posting the information on FaceBook at around the church so people know where we will be exactly at the parks, once we have picked the location.

We do need help with this service – it takes a village! **Here are the things we need help with each week:**

- Bonfire set up (including bringing firewood!)
- Live feed monitor person – paying attention to the facebook feed as we are worshipping
- Phone video person – actually shooting the service with a phone for the live feed
- Communion setup person – bringing the bread and wine, and serving dishes to the park
- Kid-friendly activity person
- Scripture readers, communion assistants – the usual

If you are able to help out, here's a link to the sign up: <https://signup.com/go/BwuhBVD>

Summer Special Music

The schedule for Summer Sundays follows:

August 4, 10:00 a.m. – VBS Sunday

August 11, 10:00 a.m. – Cello, Piano, & Vocalists – Brian Butler, Niels Running, Stephanie Running, & Tricia Kloth

August 18, 10:00 a.m. – Vocal Solo – Sam Purvine, Tenor (followed by Welcoming Wisdom)

August 25, 10:00 a.m. – Trombone & Trumpets – Raymond Larsen, Carey Rayburn, and Jerome Smith

September 1, 10:00 a.m. – Penny Whistle & Vocalists – Kyle McBride, Eric Johnson, & Denny Palmason

September 8, 11:00 a.m. – Flute & Octave Violin – Joanna Elizondo & Fred Flickinger (and Kick-off Sunday!)

September 15, 11:00 a.m. – The Choir returns!

Looking forward to a summer of wonderful music – please join us in worship!

by Karen Lee, Our Redeemer's Traditional Worship and Music Director 



FAITH FORMATION



Kick Off Sunday September 8th

On September 8, we are kicking off Faith Formation for young people with a Bible reading challenge and Bible give-away! Children of all ages will receive a new Bible, and over the course of the school year, will have the opportunity to receive a trophy for reading the whole thing! If you would like to help organize or participate, contact Pastor Gretchen.

Also on Sunday Sept 8, at 10am, we will have a parent's meeting for kids ages four – eleven to talk about the opportunities for kids to build their relationships with Jesus and find out what classes and retreats are planned for the upcoming year. Also, we will have an update on the work we are doing with our Faith Formation consultant to start re-building and strengthening our work with kids as a congregation. *Mark your calendar!*

Exploring Faith and Science

Faith Formation Class for 6-12 year olds!

Sept. 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, and 20 - 10 am in Room 10! This is an exciting curriculum with a video lesson and a hands-on experiment. Teachers needed!



Sprouts *Do you love kids?*



Our Sunday School class for 4-5 year olds is offered during the 9 am service. Teachers needed, starting September 8th! Please contact Pastor Gretchen if you are interested in helping out.

Youth Group Meeting!



Calling all 9th-12th graders

Let's get together and have a "State of the Union" about high school, life, faith, and church! Sunday, September 15th at 12:30 pm following the 11 am service. We will have donuts! Contact Pastor Gretchen if you have questions.

Confirmation Informational Meeting

*Wed. Aug. 21
in the evening*



Parents and Confirmants in 7th and 8th grade are invited to attend this mandatory informational meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Come connect with other families, and find out everything you need to know for this year!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN



September 11th

I write each month in the Newsletter, hoping to

entice you to join our class. *Wish me luck!* The Wisdom Literature in the Old Testament, such as Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon is our work. These texts, not often preached upon, are gems not to pass by. Although a conglomeration of world wisdom from ancient times, it is not distant to 2019. Consider the power of the Old Testament in the thoughts of Father Joseph W. Koterski, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Fordham University, our teacher via DVD:

The Old Testament has been labeled, correctly, as the foundation document of Western thought. It is read in synagogues, temples, and churches; it is cited on the door of the Senate and from the bench in the courtroom...The Bible influenced the Pilgrims to leave England in the 17th century; it inspired the founders of the new republic in the eighteenth; it roused both slave and abolitionist to seek a new Moses and sponsor a new Exodus in the nineteenth and the Jews to establish a homeland in the twentieth. ... Its influence permeates Western literature, from medieval plays to modern novels, art, music, theatre, and dance; its prophetic calls for social justice challenge all readers to reevaluate their own behavior even as its Wisdom literature challenges our views of God. These texts are a compendium of a people's sacred story.

Some questions we will consider in the class:

1. For a moment, put yourself in the situation of Job, confronted by the sudden and unexpected loss of your family and your business. Where would you turn? What would you do? To whom could you go?

2. Whom do you consider genuinely wise? What public figures strike you as having real wisdom to offer for the guidance of the community? In your own personal circle of acquaintances, who strikes you as

most likely to give good advice and sound counsel? What criteria do you use for distinguishing real wisdom from its counterfeits?

3. What maxims do you live by? Try to name some of those that you really do tend to say, and reflect on how you use them—is it more to make decisions or more to justify your decisions to others afterward?

4. It may be surprising to consider the Bible as including (perhaps adapting) material from other cultures—even from older cultures (as was true in the biblical wisdom). What cultures do you know besides your own? What sayings or practices from these cultures can you see as having some special wisdom that is important to consider, and perhaps to adopt?

5. Rather than curse God for his afflictions, Job curses the day of his birth. What good does that do? What do you suppose he means?

6. Job reacts rather angrily to the suggestion from his wife that he curse God and die. What do you think Job's wife means? Why does he get so angry? What are we to learn from their exchange?



7. Why do some thinkers hold that the reality of suffering means that God must be imperfect, lacking in knowledge, or lacking in goodness? How do you see it?

8. Why do some thinkers insist that suffering is inevitable in a world in which human beings really do have the power of free choice? What is the connection here? Do you agree?

9. One of the main questions raised by Ecclesiastes is that of time. When things are too hectic and hurried, what do you do to slow things down and find time to reflect? When things are agonizingly slow, what do you recommend as to use wisely the time you must pass?



So, how did I do? Give 1½ hours each week to the Old Testament. You won't be sorry.

by Carolyn Swanson



COMMUNITY

WELCOME KARIE STEARNS!

Our New Parish Administrator

by Pastor Kathy

After a long search, we are delighted to announce that Karie Stearns stepped into our parish administrator role on July 15.

Karie comes to us from The Sophia Way, a Bellevue non-profit that provides a day shelter and night shelter for women experiencing homelessness. The Sophia Way provides nourishing meals, showers and laundry, access to computers and phones, resource referrals and service providers, including counseling, health checkups, legal assistance, and resume help. Privacy and dignity are also offered.

Karie has served as shelter manager, day center manager, transitional housing manager, case manager, Pathways (grant development) Coordinator, and Director of Programs and Services for this varied and important work. Thus, she comes with supervisory, financial, operations, management and even building construction experience! Plus, she's just a delightful human being!

Karie plans to work 9 to 5, Monday through Friday, for the foreseeable future. *Come by to meet and welcome her!*



FAREWELL TO JONATH OCHS

Jonath moves to Portland

by Pastor Kathy

After three years as our communications specialist, Jonath Ochs is moving to Portland. Jonath has vastly improved and expanded our communications, adding Instagram, a wide variety of outside banners and signs, photography of members and events, and an active FaceBook and website presence, in addition to bulletins, newsletter and weekly congregational email updates.

Jonath has also shared his musical gifts, playing violin at Lenten mid-week Holden Evening Vespers services, and with our informal music ensemble.

We will truly miss not only Jonath's gifts, but his kind and creative presence. *All the best, Jonath!*

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT OF THANKS TO JONATH, PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO OUR REDEEMER'S, WITH A NOTE "For Jonath" OR MAKE A DONATION BY TEXTING 206-717-8465. If you are already registered, simply text Jonath.

If you haven't registered, put in the same phone number and the amount you wish to give. Press send. You will receive a registration link. Click the link and enter your contact and payment information. Tap "Process." You will receive a verification text and a receipt via email. This is a SAFE process!



MEET THE NEW MEMBER

Phillipa Duggaw

with Nancy OldenKamp

What drew you to attend Our Redeemer's?

I had been searching for the right place for my family and I to worship. Other churches that we visited were either too big or it just lacked that special vibe. When I walked into Our Redeemer's there were familiar faces and that vibe I was looking for, well I was starting to feel it.

Where did you live as a child? How many brothers and sisters do you have? Current family? I was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica. I am the youngest of three girls. My dad passed away when I was eleven and my mum and my sisters still live in Jamaica. I am married to Tim, I have two kids - Malaika (12) and Liam(10) and our sweet dog Tego.

Favorite childhood memory?

Spending every Christmas from the age of 3-11 with my family at a cabin in the hills of Jamaica. My mum, my dad, my sisters, a couple of my aunts, uncles and cousins would drive an hour into the cool Blue Mountains and spend two weeks eating some good food, opening presents, celebrating the season and having the best time building relationships.

What are your interests/passions/hobbies?

Photography, sports, volunteering.

Something you look forward to this summer? This summer, I was excited to go home to Jamaica to visit with my family and friends and to continue introducing and teaching my kids about their Jamaican heritage.



Favorite thing about attending Our Redeemer's?

The community - everyone says hello with a smile on their face or they just want to stop to talk to you. What I love is how genuine it is and how comfortable I feel.

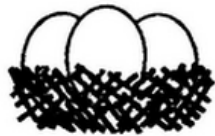
Anything else you would like us to know about you that we may not already know?

Taking *The Journey* and becoming a member this year was one of the best decisions. I really hope to start getting more involved in this wonderful church community and to get my family to embrace this special place and the people.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Fred Nelson	10	Anna Ojendyk	24	Mercer Lenihan
2	Shirley Anderson	14	Niels Running	25	Christine Huffstetter
2	Betty Goble	15	Paul Oldenkamp	26	Chris Glover
3	Theresa Forssen	16	Norman Hill	26	Sue Johnson
3	Keira Smith	18	Lee Cayton	28	Alicia Jancola
4	Stephanie Dykes	18	Carl Christenson	29	Cynthia Ege
4	Shirley Smith	18	Doug Dixon	29	Stephanie Running
5	Damon Knight	18	Keith Hansen	30	Sharon Ohm
6	Berent Egaas	20	Amy Hammett	30	Harley Oswald
6	Sue Schoolcraft	20	John Somm	30	John Wilson
7	Jennifer Gleeson	21	Holly Gundacker	31	Anna Deturk
8	Matt Neill	22	Kea Osborn	31	Peter Paulson
10	Jean Kippen	23	Audrey Gundacker		
10	Wilma McIntyre	24	Rebecca Butler		

Patty's Eggnest



Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, Aug 7th, 7am
Patty's Egg Nest
9749 Holman Rd NW

Good company, coffee, and
pancakes at Patty's Egg Nest.



OFFICE CLOSURE

Our parish office will be closed for a staff cleanout from August 20th through August 21st.

OUR PASTORS WILL BOTH BE GONE AUGUST 12TH-16TH. If you have emergency pastoral needs, please contact Pastor Elise Scott from Ballard First Lutheran, (803) 944-7006.

Welcoming Wisdom

Sunday, August 18

11:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall



*A-Tisket
A-Tasket*



Unforgettable



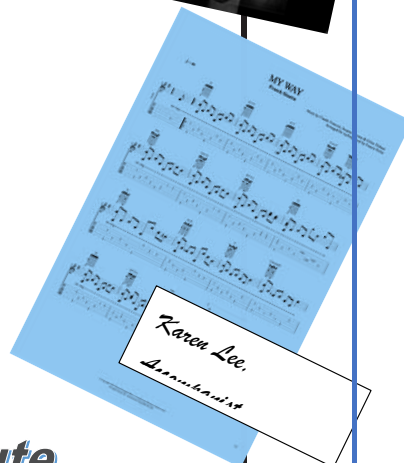
What a Wonderful World!



I'll Be Seeing You



*My
Way*



*Karen Lee,
Arranger*

Brunch is served

Wisdom is shared

Songs are sung

Honor is given

To our 80+ folks

Come and help us pay tribute

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of
the riches of the
wisdom and
knowledge of
God! How
unsearchable his
judgments, and
his paths beyond
tracing out.

Extra Important information: Sometimes people get confused and think the brunch is only for our elderly population. That is far from the truth. It isn't any fun to be especially honored if there is no one there to do the honoring; so, don't be confused, the Welcoming Wisdom event is for Everyone!



SOCIAL JUSTICE / EARTH CARE

Ballard Sunday Dinner

August 18th by Shannon Beck

We need servers! Leads! We need it all! Sign up online early and often!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084daea62ea1fe3-ballard>

SAVE THE DATE!

September 15-22



God's Work; Our Hands

How and where will you serve? As Lutherans, "we are one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor." The week of September 15-22 is our week! Stay tuned for options to work together for the life of the world.

Road to Housing, not Road to Parking



Our Redeemer's Road to Housing program has received some good press for its work since 2012. Now we are supporting the City of Seattle's effort to deepen the program by helping The Urban League do case management more efficiently and effectively. For more info, check out KUOW and King5's archives.



Art in the Garden

Saturday, August 3rd, 10 am-4 pm

Join Our Redeemer's at our booth and let the city know we love our P-patch! All donations go to the P-Patch. For more about the event, click [here](#). Sign up to staff our booth [here!](https://signup.com/go/CHKnbEO) <https://signup.com/go/CHKnbEO>

Can you bring cookies? Have an awesome gnome to decorate our table? Contact Shannon at outreach@ourredeemers.net

SUNDAYS: 10am - Traditional Worship 7pm - Worship in the Park		AUGUST 2019					ourredeemers.net/calendar	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
4 10am VBS Sunday 7pm Worship in the Park: Golden Gardens	5	6	7 Office Closed* 7am Men's Breakfast	8 10am Staff Meeting	9 12pm Life Masters' Planning Meeting 130pm Folders	10 9am Traditional Worship Team		
	11 Confirmation Camp 7pm Worship in the Park: Sunset Hill Park	12 Confirmation Camp	13 Confirmation Camp	14 Confirmation Camp	15 Confirmation Camp 10am Staff Meeting	16 Confirmation Camp 130pm Folders		
	18 1130am Welcoming Wisdom 5pm Ballard Sunday Dinner 7pm Worship in the Park: Carkeek Park	19	20 Office Closed for Staff Cleanout 630pm Church Council	21 Office Closed for Staff Cleanout	22 10am Staff Meeting	23 130pm Folders		
25 11am VAB Coffee Hour 1230pm LifeMasters' Bible Exploration 7pm Worship in the Park: Green Lake Park	26	27	28	29 10am Staff Meeting	30 130pm Folders	31		

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



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return service requested

SUMMER WEEKLY WORSHIP

Sunday - 10am (Traditional) ~ 7pm (Informal)

Last Sunday EVE Service is August 25; No evening service Labor Day Weekend.

WELCOMING WISDOM

Sunday, August 18th

Come help us pay tribute and honor our 80+ year-old friends and family! A brunch, some insightful words, and songs will be shared! This commemoration takes place in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 18th, at 11:30 am.

Come one, come all!



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.