

Third Sunday of Advent

Joy

Gaudete Sunday

December 14, 2025 | 9 AM

WELCOME!

Welcome! It is a joy to worship together!

As a community in the model of Christ, we warmly welcome all who have come seeking God in worship at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. We welcome people of every race, gender, ethnic background, social status, physical ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Together in our diversity and as a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we seek to embrace the love of God offered to us in Jesus Christ. We gather to experience the presence of God in Word and Sacrament and to give praise to God who loves us unconditionally.

All are Welcome to Communion! Christ hosts this meal, and ALL are invited to share this feast of life and forgiveness. Our shared communion bread is gluten free and we offer wine and grape juice. Children commune at the discretion of their parents. If you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come forward to receive a blessing.

If you would like communion in your seat, please let an usher know.

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.



We are gathered on this land, which touches the shared waters of the peoples of the Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot Nations. This is God's creation and home to the Coast Salish peoples, whose long history, voices, and practices call inhabitants to loving stewardship, faithful advocacy, and inclusive story-telling. We honor the Creator's presence in this land, confess our complicity in its brokenness, and proclaim our interconnectedness with God's creation and all its creatures.

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Cover Art: Annunciation Joy - artwork owned by Pastor Thomas

GATHER

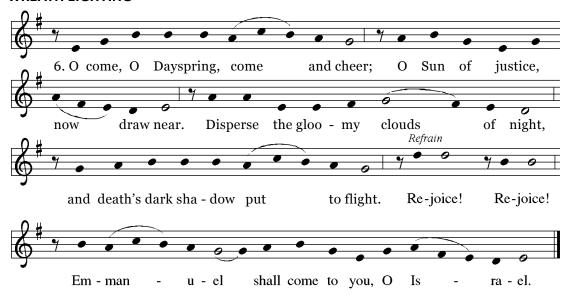
Advent and Christmas Theme - Believe, Behold.

WELCOME

FAITH FORMATION

Adults: Meditation with Pastor Thomas (Library)
ORCA Verse: Matthew 11:7-9

*WREATH LIGHTING



One License #32080

Wreath Lighters come forward.

[God sent John] as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (John 1:7-9)

What has come into being in him is life, and the life is the light of all people. (John 1:3-4)

The Hope, Peace, and Joy Candles are lit. while "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" is sung.

Lighters: The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness has not overtaken it. (John 1:3-5)

^{*}Please rise in body or in spirit.

*OPENING SONG

In these darkest days, Bring your light to our lives. Like the moon on the snow, In your hope we will glow.

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

And also with you.

*PRAYER

We turn to God in prayer.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may rejoice through your way of life for all creation; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



PROCLAIM

FIRST READING 35:1-10

Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Our ears and hearts are open.

- ¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.
 - ³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.
 ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!
 Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."
 - ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
 ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;
 ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water;
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thank God!

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Send Us a Sign - Mertes

Send us a sign, your people look up, your people look east. Send us your Word, your people need peace. Allelu-ia, Allelu-ia -a- a. Send us a sign.



*GOSPEL READING Matthew 11:2-11

The Lord shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

The good news of Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

These [signs] are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | SERMON

Pastor Thomas Voelp

SONG OF THE DAY

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



- 1 Joy ful, joy ful we a dore thee, God of glo ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv ing and for giv ing, ev er bless-ing, ev er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be-fore thee, praising thee, their sun a - bove. stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise. well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way. Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea, Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day. chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee. teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di-vine!

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jesus said, "whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours," and "all things can be done for the one who believes." (Mark 11:24, 9:23)

Silence for contemplation.

Please close your prayers of thanksgiving, lament, and request with God, of faith and joy, and we will all respond

hear us as we pray.

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. We pray especially for our neighbors, and those named in our prayer list. God of faith and joy

hear us as we pray.

For the relational ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give us a spirit of generosity, eyes and ears attuned to joy and sorrow, and hearts for connection. Bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Raise leaders among us and give new life to our ministries of hospitality, welcome, and accompaniment. God of faith and joy,

hear us as we pray.

For whom and what else do we pray?

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. We remember all those who have come before us who experienced the joy of motherhood, especially Sarah, the mother of Isaac, Elizabeth, the mother of John, and Mary, the mother of Jesus. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of faith and joy,

hear us as we pray.

(at the close of the Prayers)
We entrust these prayers to you, O God,
believing your love for us and grace give us eternal comfort,
and in good hope may be strengthened in heart by every good work and word,
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.** (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

COMMUNE

*PEACE

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." (John 14:1)

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We greet each other with sign of Christ's peace by gesture and word, such as "Peace be with you."

OFFERING

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16)

At this time, we offer gifts in good faith and hope out of love for his Son and one another.

Gifts may be made online at www.ourredeemers.net/donate or by scanning this code.



OFFERING MUSIC

*OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, give us confidence in your faithfulness
That we may hold fast to hope in your promises
and be encouraged for your coming day. (Adapted Hebrews 10:23-25)
Come to meet us today at your table,
and strengthen us as we await to see
with the whole creation
the redemption and freedom
that comes with your Son. Amen. (Adapted Romans 8:19-25)

*AT THE TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, Lord God!

Behold, it is you who made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm!

Nothing is too difficult for you.

You show steadfast love to the thousandth generation.

(Jeremiah 32:17-18)

Fulfilling the word of your prophets, you sent your messenger to announce your grace to Mary, the mother of your Son, Jesus Christ, who believed "nothing is impossible" for you, saying, "Behold, here I am, a servant of the Lord." (Luke 1:37-38)

is disclosed through the faith for all who believe.

We praise you that, at the right time, your Son died for us, (Romans 5:6) reconciling us through your love; the reign of sin is ended (5:21) and your righteousness

(Romans 5:6, 21, 3:21-23)

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
(1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now we know only in part; then we will know fully, even as we are fully known.

(1 Corinthians 13:12)

By your grace and presence with us May we be restored, supported, and strengthened to endure with hope believing your love has been poured into our hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit through faith in your Son. **Amen.** (Adapted, Romans 5:3-5, 1 Peter 5:9-11)

*LORD'S PRAYER

We pray in the language of our hearts as our Lord, Jesus has taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
holy be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Many of us have experienced rejection, exclusion, and marginalization at different times in our lives, but we come here, knowing we will not be turned away.

So come, whether this is your first time, or your hundredth. All who have tried to follow, all God's people needing healing and wholeness; Come to this simple feast. God's table is big enough for all of us.

All Are Welcome

to commune, including children (as parents permit).

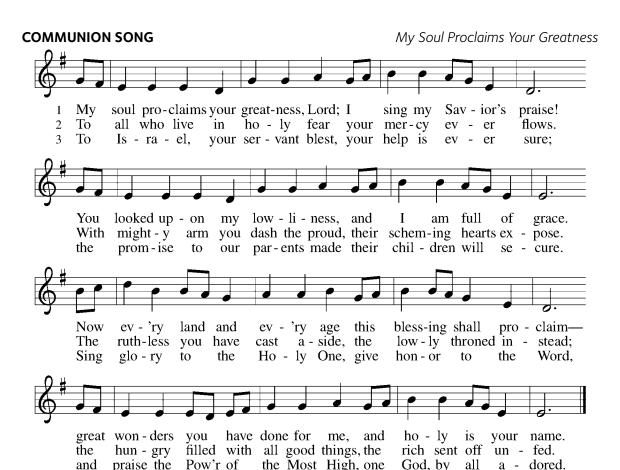


After communing, please feel moved to light candles in witness of Christ's light in your life by prayer and inspiration.

LAMB OF GOD We Wait - Mertes

We wait for the Son to come again We wait for hope to rise We wait, prepared to serve again We wait for the dawn on high

Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.



One License #85914

TABLE BLESSING

Jesus said, "The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." (John 6:33, 29)

May the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ keep us in everlasting grace and in eternal life.

Amen.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

With the eyes of our heart enlightened,

may we perceive what is the hope to which God has called us and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for all who believe. Amen. (Ephesians 1:15-19)

SEND

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Luciafest - TODAY, 5:00 pm Blue Christmas Service & Reception - Tuesday, December 16, 7:00 pm Pageant Rehearsal - Saturday, December 20, 10:00 am

*BLESSING

It is already the moment for us to wake from sleep. Salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; **the night is far gone; the day is near.** (Romans 13:11-13)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and ₱ peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** (Romans 15:13)

*SENDING SONG

Just one light fills the world with love Just one light dispels the shadows Just one light can bring hope through the night Oh lord let us be just one light

Love will be our song
Peace on earth will be realized
Joy will come along out of the wilderness

Just One Light - Mertes

Hope keeps us coming back. (stoke our fires) Hope keeps us coming back. (stoke our fires) Hope keeps us coming back. (stoke our fires) Oh lord let us be just one light

*DISMISSAL

Jesus said, "I am going away, and I am coming to you.

I have told you this before it occurs,

so that when it does occur you may believe."

Let us be on our way. (John 14:28-29, 31) Thanks be to God!

We Pray for...

Barton Bjugstad, Faye Buckalew, Tom Carlson, Jennifer Carter, Pat D'Amico, Pete D'Amico, Davis family, Cindy Ege, Meggan Ellingboe, Gerry & Bob Faley, Cindy Funai, Don Hansen, Donnalyn Hansen, Hartje family, Shirley Holt and family, Tyson Hunter, Helen Jones, Joy Kimotho, Bud Knapp, Leander family, Judy Malmgren, Roger Mandery, Martin, Erin Miller, Barbara Moen & family, Julie Osinski, Iko Rodenberger, Ambrose Roth, Kjersti Sangrey, David Schrader, Sharon Stearns, Carolyn Swanson, Richard Johnson and family, Gary T., Eliot Wright and family, Jon Wright, Kelly Wright; asylum seekers, refugees, and those seeking housing and a home; those living with mental illness and loneliness; children and parents; immigrant families remaining separated; those outside in the elements; Road to Housing quests.

Grieving the Loss of

S. Culver, Kenneth Leander

To include someone in the prayers, <u>email</u> the church (pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net)
Requests received after each Wednesday will be put in the following week's bulletin.

IN OUR SERVICES TODAY

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Thomas Voelp

Reader: Russ Jacobs Usher: Mary Melvey Greeter: Sonja Braasch

Musicians: Gian Foddai, Arun Satgunasingam

www.ourredeemers.net | 206.783.7900 2400 NW 85th Street, Seattle, WA 98117

Our Redeemer's Staff

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Justine Ranney

Administrative Assistant office@ourredeemers.net

Karie Stearns x101 Administrator administrator@ourredeemers.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more details, check the website or current newsletter.



worship

9 AM Informal Sunday Worship | In-person

Our 9:00 am service is casual and welcoming, perfect for exploring faith in a comfortable setting. Enjoy a mix of contemporary and familiar music, interactive worship, and opportunities to engage at your own pace. Children are always part of the community, with a staffed nursery available for little ones who need extra care.

11 AM Traditional Sunday Worship | In-person & Online

The 11:00 am service celebrates Lutheran tradition with prayers, responses, and gestures that draw us into a meaningful rhythm. Music is central, featuring hymns, organ, choir, and special music. Focused on God's grace, this service invites you to pause, be grounded in faith, and connect with a multi-generational community, whether in the sanctuary or online.

"Prophecies and Promises"

A Single Service at 10 AM-December 28th

Join us for a special service reflecting on the prophecies of Christ's coming and the promises his birth brings. We'll sing Christmas hymns and songs (different from Christmas Eve), share in a simple call-and-response style of worship, and take time to look back with gratitude and forward with hope. Come gather for the joy of Christmas—without the extra pageantry.





LUCIAFEST

The Light of Hope is a Crown of Joy.

SUNDAY DEC 14 5PM





faith formation

TRANSFORMING SPIRITUALITY

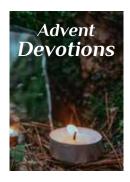
It's An Our Redeemer's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 21, 11 AM

Our annual Christmas pageant will take center stage during the 11:00 am worship service next Sunday, December 21st. Everyone is welcome!

Children of all ages are welcome to participate. We'll gather for a single rehearsal on Saturday, December 14th at 10:00 am to assign roles, distribute costumes, and bring this simple yet magical pageant to life. The rehearsal will be followed by a pizza lunch in the Fellowship Hall!

The pageant is a wonderful way to celebrate the season and create lasting memories. We'd love to hear from you! Contact Kenna Hight (<u>faithformation@ourredeemers.net</u>) if your family wants to be a part of this Christmas tradition!



The Circle of Light: A Celtic Way to Advent

This year, we're embracing a Celtic approach to Advent—beginning a little earlier and grounding ourselves in contemplation, anticipation, and hope.

Our daily prompts, offered in a weekly calendar, will guide you through forty days of reflection and spiritual practice, culminating on Christmas Eve.

Printed calendars will be available each Sunday (for the following week's devotions) through Dec 21. If you'd like to receive the calendar by mail or email, please contact the church office.

Come to Holden Village | Summer 2026 July 5-10 | Registration Opens January 2nd

Our Redeemer's Week at Holden Village is set for July 5-10, 2026! It's a special time for connection, reflection, and learning amidst the beautiful surroundings of Holden Village.

Our Redeemer's Week at Holden Village is scheduled for Sunday–Friday, July 5–10. These dates include the two travel days, giving you the full Monday–Thursday program in the village. Want more unhurried time for rest and exploration? You're welcome to add the weekend before or after your stay.

This week offers a special opportunity for connection, reflection, and learning in the stunning surroundings of Holden Village. Everyone will register directly through Holden Village, as we did last year.

Registration opens at 10 AM on January 2, 2026, and spots may fill quickly—so plan to sign up early.

Register at: ωωω.ηολδενωιλλαγε.οργ



community

Christmas Eve Volunteer Opportunities Help make the Christmas Eve Services happen!

We need volunteers to assist to help with our 4:00 pm Family Candlelight Service or our 10:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Service. Volunteer jobs entail serving communion as a family, lighting the Advent wreath, ushering, greeting, and presenting various readings or prayers. If you or your family are interested participating, you are encouraged to email Lake, volunteer@ourredeemers. net or sign up at this link: https://rebrand.ly/e87v72g, or use the OR code at right.

Ballard Food Bank December Drive

Food | Socks | Personal Hygiene Items - through December 17

As winter approaches, the need at the Ballard Food Bank is growing. This December, we're collecting non-perishable food, new socks, and personal hygiene items to support our neighbors.

Please place socks in the designated container; all items will be delivered together.

Our collection runs through December 17, with delivery on December 18. Help is needed! If you can assist with transporting donations to , please contact Stephanie Running.

Thank you for offering comfort, dignity, and nourishment to our neighbors this season.



Poinsettias Donate by December 17th



Donations are being collected for poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary this Christmas. Your donation may be given in memory of or to honor a loved one in your life and be acknowledged in or Christmas bulletins. Donate any amount you wish in a flower envelope available at church or use the QR code.

Let's Go Caroling December 21st

Sunday, December 21, 12:30 PM

Join us in the narthex as we bring holiday cheer to members of Our Redeemer's community who can't make it to church.

We'll grab our caroling books and head out to nearby nursing homes and assisted living facilities to share the spirit of the season with heartfelt and festive Christmas carols.

Don't forget to wear your favorite Christmas sweaters, scarves, hats—and, most importantly, your smile! Let's make this season merry and bright together! RSVP to Karen Lee: karen@ourredeemers.net. All are invited to participate in this special experience!

CPR/AED Training with the Seattle Fire Department Saturday, January 10, 1 PM | Fellowship Hall

The Seattle Fire Department will offer an Adult/Child/Infant CPR and AED training here at Our Redeemer's. Participants who wish to receive official certification may do so for a \$30 fee (cash or check made payable to Medic 2). This is a great opportunity to learn lifesaving skills—consider signing up!

To register, contact Justine at <u>office@ourredeemers.net</u> or call (206) 783-7900.

Coming to a Table Near You!

Sunday, January 11, 6 PM | Various Homes

Friendship – Connection – Good Food! All this and more can be yours if you sign up to attend and/or host one of the Breaking Bread Dinners on January 11, 2026. These potlucks in various homes give us a chance to spend time together, learning about each other's joys and struggles and forming deeper connections. Also, there's really good food!

Sign- ups will start in mid-December. Mark your calendar now. Questions? Contact Annie McGrew (<u>annemcgrew@msn.com</u>) or Cindy Anderson (<u>cindyrowanderson@qmail.com</u>).

Before the Year Ends... Make Your 2026 Commitment!

Thank you to all who have made their commitment to help cultivate a future rooted in faith, abundance, and hope and strengthens the ministries and mission we share.





Your Estimated Total Amount of Giving for Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2026 \$______ 2025 Commitment Card ☐ I already give automatically with Simple Giving online ____ Please update my giving to \$_____ per: week | month | yearly (circle one) ___ I would like to increase my current automatic giving by _____% ☐ Sign me up for Automatic Simple Giving online I would like to automatically give the following: \$_____ per: week | month | yearly (circle your giving frequency) ☐ I would like a percentage of my giving to be directed towards Faith Formation: ___1% ___3% ___5% Print Name Your Signature ______ Date _____ Email Phone Address Zip_____

Christmas Season Events

In our Narthex Our Redeemer's Giving Tree

Take a tag to help give gifts to children and families in need in our community.

TODAY-Sunday, December 14, 5 PM Luciafest!

Tradition at its best with Lucia and her attendants, cookie smorgasbord, and dancing around the tree!

Tuesday, December 16, 7 PM Blue Christmas

A mellow service for those who are feeling sadness at the holidays.

Sunday, December 21, 11 AM Christmas Pageant

Our children and youth tell the Christmas story.

Sunday, December 21, after the Pageant Caroling to the Homebound

Join Karen Lee and the choir to carol for those who can't make it to church. All are welcome!

Wednesday, December 24 4 PM Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

A brief, cheerful service of lessons and carols with a special message for kids!

Wednesday, December 24 10 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

All the tradition with familiar songs, handbells, choir, and orchestra.



This Week at Our Redeemer's

Today, December 14, Sunday

ADVENT 3

₱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

3-6 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner

5 PM - LUCIAFEST | Our Redeemer's

December 16, Tuesday

♣7 PM - BLUE CHRISTMAS

December 17, Wednesday

7 PM - Our Redeemer's Choir Rehearsal

December 20, Saturday
2 PM - Hand Bells Rehearsal
3 PM - Orchestra Rehearsal I Our

3 PM - Orchestra Rehearsal | Redeemer's

December 21, Sunday

ADVENT 4

⊕9 AM - Informal Worship

♣11 AM - CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

12:30 PM - Caroling to the Homebound 3 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner | Ballard

- Ballard Sunday Dinner | Ballard First Lutheran

Email <u>administrator@ourredeemers.net</u> if you need online or in-person meeting help. Find meeting information in the announcements herein or on the church's <u>website calendar</u>.



www.ourredeemers.net 2400 NW 85th Street Seattle, WA 98117