



16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023 | 9 AM

WELCOME!

Shameless Grace!

This September we are exploring the breadth and length and height and depth of God's love for us through Biblical story, song, and prayer. You are invited to dance in the joy of God's love and ponder the shamelessness of a God who sees us as we truly are and decides to love us anyway.

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. We offer pre-packaged gluten-free/juice communion elements for those who prefer them. Our shared communion bread is gluten free, and we provide individual cups and grape juice for the health of everyone gathered. 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. To receive communion at your seat, please alert an usher.

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 on land created by God and stewarded for generations by the indigenous ancestors of the Duwamish people, who are still here. We honor the Creator's continuing presence in this land, confess our complicity in its brokenness, and awaken to our connectedness with all of creation.

*Music reprinted under CCLI License #2540500,
OneLicense.net #A-706853, and LicenSingOnline #L10114
Liturgy reprinted under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies
License #SAS000631*



**Are you newer here or visiting?
Has your information recently changed?**
Then fill out our contact information form by using this QR code so we know where to send you information about our various ministries or important news about the church.

GATHER

WELCOME AND SILENT PREPARATION

*CONFESSION

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
Amen.

Let us stand before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

**Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

continued

**Please stand, as you are able.*

Beloveds,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

Let It Shine - All Sons and Daughters

There are a million truths for every lie
So speak it out loud and let it lift high
There are a million reasons to cover your eyes
But the light is shining through the darkness we hide
But the light is shining through the darkness we hide

CHORUS

So come let it
Come let it
Come let it
Come let it shine
Come let it shine

There's only one way to wash yourself clean
So let the dirt fall and get on your knees
There are a million scars for every mistake
Oh but we are not chained to the secrets that we've made
Oh but we are not chained to the secrets that we've made

CHORUS

This is the battle of our time of our time now
We can't afford not to cry not to cry out
Shake the earth from the ground from the ground
Rescue souls from the darkness around
Rescue souls from the darkness around

CHORUS

One License #91024

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray:

O Lord God, merciful judge,
you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.
Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you,
that we may delight in doing your will,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



WORD

FIRST READING

Romans 14:1-12

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people:

Our ears and hearts are open.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Zimbabwe

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

***THE GOSPEL**

Matthew 18:21-35

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Chris Ode

SONG OF THE DAY

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

One License #00786



*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of God's grace in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For what else do the people of God pray?

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always and everywhere.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace by crossing hands over your heart, or another gesture, saying "Peace be with you."

MEAL

GENEROSITY STORY

Mandy Neill

OFFERING SPECIAL MUSIC

I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For - U2

Gifts may be made online at www.ourredeemers.net/donate, or use this QR code:



***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.

Holy God,

our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners
and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant relationship in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us in whatever version is most prayerful for you:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed 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 THE MEAL**

Jesus invites you to this table.
Come, eat and live.

All Are Welcome
to commune, including children (as parents permit).



LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION SONG

The Lord's Prayer - The Well

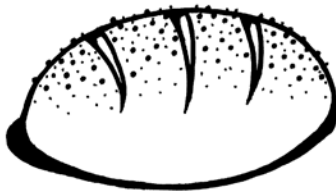
Our heavenly Father hear the prayer we offer now;
Thy name be hallow'd far and near, to thee all nations bow.
Thy kingdom come, thy will, On earth be done in love,
As saints and angels all fulfill, Thy perfect law of love.

Our daily bread supply, While by thy word we live:
The guilt of our iniquity, Forgive as we forgive!
From dark temptation's power, from Satan's wiles defend;
Deliver in the evil hour, and guide us to the end.

Thine, then, forever be, glory and power divine;
The scepter, throne, and majesty, Of heaven and earth are Thine.
The scepter, throne, and majesty, Of heaven and earth are Thine.

*TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
Amen.



SENDING

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious God, with thank you for this heavenly meal,
a foretaste of the feast to come.

Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your table,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

May the God who shamelessly loves us despite ourselves

Bless your journey forward in every way.

May Jesus who continues to teach us until we understand

Give you strength to share your learning.

And may the Holy Spirit whose movement quickens our hearts

Lead you into good trouble.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG**

Blessed are the Ones - Audrey Assad

We're tossing pennies in the well, empty pockets all turned out.
Happy shining blessed are the ones who hunger.
When our poverty is plain, I'll try to burn it in my brain.
Trace a line around your face to paint a picture.

So further up and further in we have nowhere else to go.
As we plant the seeds of toil and tears, it's beauty we will sow.
Blessed are the ones, Oh blessed are the ones.
Blessed are the hungry ones.

Let's build a house with turned out doors, so we can share what love affords.
Pour ourselves out like a wine that we've been saving.
So, when our well is running dry, and when we raise our glasses high
happy, shining are the faces of the thirsty.

So further up and further in we have nowhere else to go.
But you give us seeds of toil and tears, it's beauty we will sow.
and blessed are the ones, Oh, blessed are the ones.
Blessed are the thirsty ones.

Yeah, yeah, yeah
Love is all, love is all,
love is all, yeah, love is all,
love is all we need.

So further up and further in we have no place else to go.
And when all we have is what we need, its joy that we will sow.
Blessed are the ones, Oh, blessed are the ones,
Blessed are the hungry ones.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.
Thanks be to God.

We Pray for...

Yvonne Boon, Myron Burkhardt, Jennifer Carter, Mary Chiappalone, Art Cross, Nancy Crouse-Paulson, Doug Durbin, Cathy Fransson, Vicky Hobbs, Bob McIntyre, Barbara Olsen, Frank Peters, Krystal Phillips, Trins Prisk-Hall, Iko Rodenberger, Karen Studders, Lars Sveum-Hanson, Carolyn Swanson, Rendel Thompson, Charlotte Wallstrom, Janet Woodfield; all married couples struggling with conflict and separation, immigrant families remaining separated, Road to Housing guests.

Grieving the Loss of

Marit Thomson

To include someone in the prayers, email the church -or- fill out the online prayer request form: [LINK](#). (Requests received after each Wednesday will be put in the following week's bulletin.

IN OUR SERVICE TODAY

Preaching: Paster Chris Ode

Presiding: Pastor Gretchen Mertes

Reader: M.J. McDermott

Setting of Communion Table: Sonja Braasch

Communion Assistant: Jolanta Grigsby

Greeter: Lynne Mcneill

Usher: Mary Melvey

Coffee Host: Jolanta Grigsby

Musicians: Gretchen Mertes, Betsy McGregor

Our Staff

Pastor Gretchen Mertes x103
pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net

Pastor David Hahn
Transition Facilitator
pastordavid@ourredeemers.net
651.587.417

Karen Lee
Traditional Worship / Music Director
karen@ourredeemers.net

Debbie Lematta x105
Communications Coordinator
communications@ourredeemers.net

Mandy Neill x102
Welcome Ministry
welcome@ourredeemers.net

Karie Stearns x101
Parish Administrator
administrator@ourredeemers.net

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more details, check the website or current newsletter.



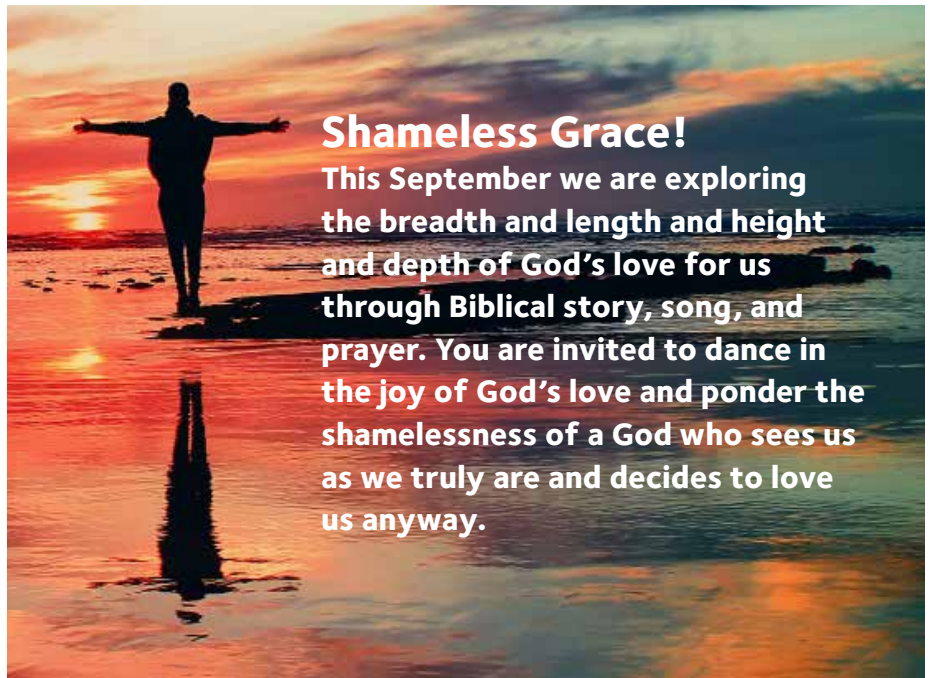
worship

9 AM Informal Worship | In-person

In this hour-long service, an ensemble leads us in a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary music. We hear a challenging and thoughtful message, pray together and take communion. Children are welcome and, for the little ones, our staffed nursery is open.

11 AM Traditional Worship | In-person & Online

The 11:00 am service is liturgy deeply rooted in the Lutheran tradition of God's living word. Join together in prayer, familiar hymns and communion at God's all-welcoming table. We wish one another peace and blessings and leave the service more connected, challenged and hopeful than before.



Shameless Grace!

This September we are exploring the breadth and length and height and depth of God's love for us through Biblical story, song, and prayer. You are invited to dance in the joy of God's love and ponder the shamelessness of a God who sees us as we truly are and decides to love us anyway.



community

Tulip Planting Party!

Next Saturday, September 23, 10 AM | Our Redeemer's Front Gardens
Come plant tulip bulbs to brighten our Easter 2024 garden beds!
Planting locations will be marked and Guy Michaelsen will provide some planting tips. We will meet Saturday, September 23 at 10:00 am at the church. Don't forget to bring your favorite trowel. Questions? Contact Connie Sandstrom at 206-375-5449.



Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, October 1, 12:15 PM

Honoring the legacy of Francis of Assisi, we hold an annual pet blessing on the first Sunday in October. **Bring in your furry, feathered, or fishy friends for a blessing, and receive a St. Francis tag for your pet's collar!** Our pets are wonderful companions in this life and are truly a gift from God. On this Sunday, pets are invited to be a part of worship, and the blessing will be held on the front patio at 12:15 pm. **All God's critters and their owners are welcome!**

Thank You for Giving!



ONLINE GIVING

Use the QR Code (focus on it with your phone's camera), or go to ourredeemers.net/donate. You may also navigate to the "Giving" tab on our website; OR call (206)783-7901 for help or questions.

MOBILE GIVING APP

Download the free "Vanco" app and search for "Our Redeemers Lutheran Church" and follow the instructions.

MAIL A CHECK

Write a check out to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church.
Mail to 2400 NW 85th St., Seattle, 98117.

DONATE STOCK

Go to ourredeemers.net, and click on the "Giving" tab and find "Give to Our Redeemer's via Donation of Stock" link.



social justice

A FORCE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

Ballard Sunday Dinner Email Updates & Signups

SIGN UP (<https://rb.gy/dkvefb>)

We're updating our email contact list so:

- If you've volunteered in the last year, you should still be on our list! However, if you're interested but haven't heard from our SignUp Genius or Amy Borgmeyer, please reach out to Amy and confirm your interest and that she has the correct email address for you.
- If it's been a while since you've volunteered, please reach out to Amy if you would like to receive ongoing communications.

As we get into the busy school year, we also want to make sure we have volunteers lined up to help. Please consider signing up using this link above. Questions? Email Amy (amy.borgmeyer@gmail.com).

Thanksgiving Dinner Planning Help Needed

We are seeking a leadership team to start planning and organizing this important community outreach event starting in October! Contact Pastor Gretchen if you can help out (pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net). Thank you!

**Church can't happen without all of us being part of it.
Bring your talents and skills to your church is a really great way to
meet other members of the congregation. It gives you a little more
insight to the community we serve and it can be a ton of fun!**

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN OF OPPORTUNITIES](https://rb.gy/zkc8b)

(<https://rb.gy/zkc8b>)

Can you help out with our Neighborhood Recycling Event on September 30th? Find out how: <https://rb.gy/d82ej>



Neighborhood Recycling Roundup

Saturday
Sept. 30
10am - 2pm
2400 NW 85th
Ballard

FREE RECYCLING OF
unwanted electronics
styrofoam packaging
bikes/parts/accessories

Contact Connie Sandstrom with any questions:
conniesandstrom05@gmail.com



faith formation

TRANSFORMING SPIRITUALITY

Youth Fall Faith Formation Classes Begin Today!

9 AM - Sprouts | Downstairs

10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Downstairs

10 AM - Confirmation | Library

Sunday Adult Forums

Sundays, 10:10 AM | Fellowship Hall

This fall our Sunday Adult forums start TODAY!

Parables: Hunting for Hidden Truth – Three Sundays a month we'll engage in a deeper discussion, facilitated by a variety of teachers, around the Parables of Jesus. **Join us on this weekly treasure hunt into the stories you thought you knew!**

Experiential Church – One Sunday a month we're experimenting with a way of getting out of our Lutheran tendency towards heady faith and experiencing it instead through creativity, nature, and embodiment. Each month we'll have a different facilitator bringing new ways of engaging our faith through things like art, nature walks, breath prayers, etc. **This will also have an intergenerational component as well; O-Rock will have a similar focus for the same week, and youth are more than welcome to join the adults.** *Starts September 24th, then the 2nd Sunday of the month after that.*

Chosen Retreat: A Study in God's People-Creating Project

Next Saturday, September 23, 9 AM - 4 PM | Our Saviors Lutheran, Everett

Taught by Dr. Michael Chan, Concordia College

From the time of Abraham and Sarah, God has been creating and fashioning a people with an important purpose in this world. **Born out of barrenness and liberation, the people of God have been on a long journey marked by promise, peril, and tragedy.** Whether you are new to Scripture or a seasoned Bible reader, this event invites you to consider how God's ongoing work to shape a people continues in our own lives and ministry contexts.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER: <https://rb.gy/ih0ys>. USE CODE "LIVEBUNDLE2023". Email welcome@ourredeemers.net if you have questions about registering for classes or retreats.



You're Invited!

**2nd Annual
Our Redeemer's
BBQ**

Saturday, September 23

**5:30 - 8 PM
BLUE RIDGE BEACH PARK
2448 Blue Ridge Drive**

Everyone is invited for fellowship and to celebrate Our Redeemer's Faith Formation programs and see what's offered in the year ahead. We'll gather outside for a catered barbecue, with fun activities for kids of ALL ages - even your teenagers! All are welcome to enjoy:

- A delicious catered family BBQ dinner
- Breakout groups to talk and get feedback about Faith Formation plans for the year (children and adults)
- Fellowship in a beautiful setting outside
- Fun, supervised activities/entertainment for your kids of all ages,
- S'mores around the fire!

This Week at Our Redeemer's

Today, Sunday, September 17

9 AM - Informal Worship

Sprouts: 9 AM | In-Person Downstairs

10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Downstairs

10 AM - Confirmation | Library

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

11 AM - Traditional Worship

2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner | Ballard
First Lutheran

4 PM - Madonna's Book Group | Our
Redeemer's

Tuesday, September 19

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 20

6:30 PM - Kid's Choir

7 PM - Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 21

7 PM - Informal Ensemble Rehearsal

Saturday, September 23

9 AM - 4 PM - Chosen Retreat: A Study in God's
People-Creating Project | Our Savior's, Everett

10 AM - Tulip Planting Party | Our Redeemer's

5 PM - Our Redeemer's BBQ | Blue Ridge
Beach Park

Sunday, September 24

9 AM - Informal Worship

Sprouts: 9 AM | In-Person Downstairs

10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Downstairs

10 AM - Confirmation | Library

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

11 AM - Traditional Worship

Email administrator@ourredeemers.net if you need online or in-person meeting help. Find meeting information in the announcements herein or on the church's [website calendar](#).



www.ourredeemers.net

2400 NW 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98117