

DECEMBER 2019

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

*The*Visitor



Still shines the star...

A Community in the Model of Christ

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COVER/INSIDE COVER: On Cover - Gillian Knight participating in Luciafest 2018. Below - Youth Fundraiser pie makers (L) Torin, Skylar, Bash; (R) Elena and Nora, were busy baking Thanksgiving pumpkin pies Saturday morning, Nov. 23rd.



- Katherine Hawks, Pastor
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director
- Shannon Beck, Interim Social Justice Coordinator
- Debbie Lematta, Communications Coordinator
- Katlin Dickinson-Laurence, Office Coordinator & Co-Welcome Minister
- Amy Hammett, Co-Welcome Minister
- Hannah Wetter, Nursery Care Provider

2400 NW 85th St. • Seattle, WA 98117 • 206-783-7900 • www.ourredeemers.net

FROM THE PASTOR...



Advent is my favorite season of the church year.

I mean, don't get me wrong – I love Christmas and stockings and jingles and glitter and 'ho ho ho' and making cookies, but Advent, the four weeks preceding Christmas Day, are none of those things.

Advent is a season of already, and not yet. Jesus has already come, but Jesus has not yet returned. The Kingdom of God is already at hand, but the Kingdom of God is not yet fulfilled. We are already saints and sinners, and we are not yet living as fully into our Christian identity as we could. Advent is a season of expectation – maybe that's why the image of a pregnant Mary is so powerful.

Our world is filled with things that overwhelm us, and make us grieve – children at our border in concentration camps, separated from their parents and families; war-torn countries like Syria that never get a chance to heal; the rampant drug addictions plaguing our neighborhoods, families – and the situations that lead to addiction in the first place; the insidious racism and hatred that harms and kills so many of our human family. It is a seemingly endless list.

In these times of things that are so overwhelming and painful, we wait for a sign of hope. We try desperately not to get weary in serving, helping, loving and hoping, And even as we fear that the shadows will overwhelm us, we enter into this season of Advent: waiting,

lighting candles to fight back the dark, remembering who we are and where we've been – and how God has been faithful to us through so much in the past, and how God has promised to always be with us.

Our theme for this season is "Still shines the star..." and I love it. When we feel lost, scattered, or without hope, we have within us the tug of God's love and faithfulness. That tug is like our north star, heading us back toward peace, and motivating us to stay true to our course of compassion, grace, and humility. *Romans 12:9-11* says "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord."

I couldn't put it better myself.

I pray that we have an amazing Advent adventure, filled with searching for joy, waiting for peace, gathering hope, and finding deep and abiding love.

Peace to you!



Pastor Gretchen



LIVING GENEROUSLY



Heartfelt Thanks to You, Generosity Team! *You Inspire Us*

We are blessed, Our Redeemer's, by a stellar group of folks who generously give time, creativity, heart, and prayer to make sure people of Our Redeemer's realize we don't give to meet a budget, but as part of living our whole lives generously.

That's a tall order! To see all our gifts as full of potential for God's kingdom.

To help us, our Generosity Team have made it possible for:

- Latife Neu to facilitate our second Financial Peace University class - helping us get real about spending and giving and life.
- Our Church Council to continue to move us toward our goal of "Making generosity a core value for Our Redeemer's." We've had great conversations about scarcity and abundance, and what they involve for us as congregational leaders and as individuals. This year, Council Member Mike Hlastala spoke to the congregation about why he likes giving, and likes giving to God through Our Redeemer's.
- In temple talks, Doug Starup, Katlin Dickinson-Laurence, Sonja Braasch, and Stephanie Fowler also shared what motivates them to live generously.
- Dana Wright, Carleen See, Jerry Andrews, Guy Michaelsen, and Sally Parker-Henderson shared in written form a bit about what Our Redeemer's means to them.
- And, of COURSE, Margaret Wetter, who kept us (more or less) on track!

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR PRAYERS, YOUR
PLEDGES, AND YOUR
PARTICIPATION!**

AND, this year, our Living Generously emphasis coincided with our celebration of 75 years of ministry in and through Our Redeemer's:

GRACE UPON GRACE ~ GENERATIONS OF GOD'S GENEROSITY.

Our thanks:

- To Andy Yee for preaching God's grace to us on the first Sunday of his new role as Asst. to the Bishop.
- To Joshua Liljenstolpe, who preached and taught us about the generosity of Christ's church down through the millennia, even to the Swedish immigrant roots of our congregation.
- To Kari Guddal, Margaret Wetter, Carissa de Lange, Margaret Berg, Sonja Braasch, Harold Laurence, Sara Ryerson, Laura Stembridge, Carolyn Davis, Stephanie Running, for heading up yet another opportunity for us to gorge on Swedish pancakes.
- To Christine Anderson, Stephanie Fowler, Kari Guddal, Emilie Purvine, Lisa Thompson, and Dana and Judy Wright for the fantastic 75 years of ministry bulletin board and artifacts display - educational and inspiring!
- To Debbie Lematta, our new Communications Director, for designing the beautiful stewardship packet - with the help of those above who sifted through the archives for photos and quotes.
- To Pastor Gretchen and all her retro potluckers and jello molders, who put together a heart-warming spread of nostalgic eats for our anniversary finale.
- To all who pitched in along the way: Julie Vannoy, Paul Wallstrom, and Margaret Wetter.

We thank each of these people for the part they played in raising up generosity as at the heart of God's grace, and in the hearts of those of us called to love as God has loved us.



LIVING GENEROUSLY

Thank You For Your Pledge: You Are Enabling God's Work to Go Forward!

To date 81 households have pledged to support Our Redeemer's financially in 2019.

Have you done so yet? If not, please spend some time reflecting and praying about God's faithfulness and goodness to you, and how you can best express your gratitude and trust.

On behalf of our beloved congregation and on behalf of all who are blessed by what God is doing through us, **THANK YOU for your pledge and your support, and THANKS BE TO GOD, for all God's blessings to us all!**

Creative Ways to Live Generously at Year's End

People at Our Redeemer's are always giving – year round – of time, energy, skills, and financial resources. Such generous living allows us to serve God, bless one another and care for those in great need, near and far.

If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge, or find yourself moved to give a special year-end gift, you might want to look into these options:

Charitable distributions from IRAs

Minimum retirement distributions are required for those 70-1/2 and older and for those who have inherited an IRA. These distributions can be gifted to the Church. A charitable gift deduction cannot be taken, but this can reduce one's tax basis – even if you don't itemize. This does qualify as all (or part) of the required minimum distribution from an IRA, and may result in some tax savings.

Gifts of Stock

Increased stock prices make gifts of appreciated stock attractive this year. Please contact the church office for instructions on making a direct transfer of stocks and mutual funds. If you have held them for at least one year, the full value of the stock can be used as a charitable gift, and taxes are not owed on capital gains.

Please remember to contact the our Parish Administrator, Karie Stearns, at administrator@ourredeemers.net or 206-783-7900 (x107) if you are making a stock gift to make sure we know who the donor is and to the fund(s) the gift should be applied.

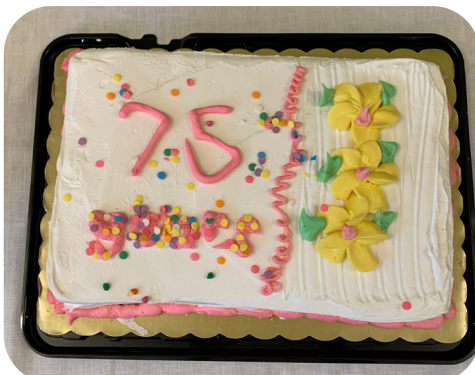
For tax purposes, all charitable gifts must be completed by December 31, 2019. Please consult your attorney or professional advisor for advice.

Thank you again for being so generous and faithful in shining the light and grace of Christ into our world.



LIVING GENEROUSLY

75th Anniversary “Retro” Potluck





LIVING GENEROUSLY



BELOW: Doug Starup was a longtime member at Our Redeemer's – he was married here, his four children were baptized and confirmed here, and his beloved wife was remembered here in her death. Doug also met his life-partner, Sally Parker-Henderson, here. After many years away, Doug and Sally are back as deeply valued members of our congregation. Doug gave a moving temple talk for us on Generosity Sunday. Thank you, Doug!





WORSHIP AND MUSIC



Christmas Eve Hand Bell Choir & Instrumental Ensemble

All are welcome to participate!

**Bring your musical instrument or
learn to play hand bells to festive Christmas carols!**

Practices are as follows:

Saturday, Dec. 7, 3-4:30pm - hand bells only

Saturday, Dec. 14, 3-4:30pm - hand bells & orchestra instruments

Saturday, Dec. 21, 3-4:30pm - hand bells & orchestra instruments

The ensemble will perform at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2019, 10pm

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church
2400 NW 85th Street

Questions? Contact Karen Lee
karen@ourredeemers.net

Let Karen know you're participating, and she'll have a part ready for you!



WORSHIP AND MUSIC



Caroling with Music Director Karen Lee

Sunday, Dec. 1 ~ 12:30pm, Light Lunch Provided

Calling all singers! You are invited to join Ms. Karen Lee and members of our choir for an afternoon of Christmas Caroling. Each year, we journey outside the church to bring joy and smiles to folks from our congregation that are either home-bound or living in retirement communities. It is so much fun!

Regardless of how long it may have been since you've sung, you are welcomed and wanted to join in the celebration. *Sign up by telling Karen, or on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.*

Centering Prayer

Thursdays, 6-6:35pm

FEELING STRESSED? Once a week, give yourself half an hour of candlelit quiet in our peaceful sanctuary. You do not need to speak or sing anything. Just come and receive.

Centering Prayer is: 10 minutes of calming (recorded) chant ➤ 20 minutes of silence with a word or phrase you choose to remind you want to be in God's presence ➤ A 2-4 minute spiritual reading ➤ then, leave or take in more quiet.

Come experience the healing silence for yourself.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Blue Christmas?

Christmas for many is not just “merry and bright”. For many the season is stressful with sad memories or expectations you no longer can meet.

This worship service honors those feelings and frustrations and offers comfort, hope, and healing. All are welcome, so please join us at Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church.

Thursday
December 19
7pm

Refreshments following
Childcare Provided

Don’t hesitate to call the church office
for more information.
206-783-7900

Christmas Pageant

Be a Part of Our Christmas Pageant!
Sunday December 22, at 11am
Rehearsal: 9-11am, Saturday, December 21

This year we will be telling the story of the journey of Mary and Joseph and all the characters they meet along the way. We have roles for children ages 4-94. Everyone is welcome to participate! The available roles are: The Narrator, Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Angels, Herod, Wise People, and a star.

The roles are non-speaking except for the narrator. We need people to help with costumes, wrangling, and props as well! Please let Pastor Gretchen know if you plan on participating, and what roles you might be dreaming of! Parents, this is a great time to ask your kids.





WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Christmas Eve Family Service - 4pm

At 4:00pm on Christmas Eve, we will be hosting our annual family friendly candlelight service. Featuring the story "Mary's Treasure Box," we will unwrap the gifts Jesus received, and hear the good news of Jesus' love in our lives today.

If you are interested in helping with the Christmas Eve service and will be in town, we will need people in the following roles:

- Actors (3-4 people)
- Ushers
- Communion Helpers
- Readers
- Candle Lighters
- Musicians (all types, especially students, are welcome!)
- Clean-Up

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service- 10pm

Picture the still darkness of Christmas Eve night with choir, orchestra, hand bells, and congregation, united in the sacred sounds of "Silent Night," faces lit only by shared candlelight. Picture the festivity of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Joy to the World," joining in with full voices, brass, woodwinds, and strings, welcoming the Christ Child into our world.

Both pictures represent the experiences shared at our 10pm Christmas Eve service. Please join as we ponder and celebrate, with silence and with joy, the mystery and gift of Jesus' birth. All are welcome: out-of-town family, neighbors, and first-time guests!

New Year's Healing Sunday

**Sunday December 29, at 10am
(combined service)**

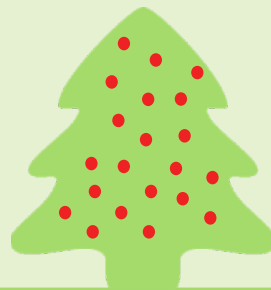
Join us for a special service welcoming the new year. Come ready to release 2019, and bring your resolutions and your hopes for 2020. Our worship will be filled with experiential ways to pray, and wonderful songs to sing.





December Holiday Events

Sunday, Dec. 1	GIVING TREE BEGINS
Sunday, Dec. 1	12:30pm - CAROLING W/ KAREN LEE
Tuesday, Dec. 3	7pm - BEER & CAROLS @ THE
Tuesday, Dec. 10	7pm - BEER & CAROLS @ THE DANE
Sunday, Dec. 15	5pm - LUCIAFEST
Thursday, Dec. 19	7pm - BLUE CHRISTMAS
Sunday, Dec. 22	11am - CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Monday, Dec. 24	CHRISTMAS EVE 4pm - FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 10pm - CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Dec. 25-26	MERRY CHRISTMAS! Office Closed
Sunday, Dec. 29	10am - NEW YEARS HEALING SERVICE
Dec. 31-Jan. 2	HAPPY NEW YEAR! Office Closed



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FAITH FORMATION – YOUTH

Faith formation at Our Redeemer's for the "first third" of life is varied and fun! We have classes for all ages, and kids are invited to participate fully in worship. We encourage all young people to be readers, ushers, greeters, communion assistants, and musicians.

Sprouts

Sunday mornings 9am, during worship

Sprouts is a great class for 3 & 4 year olds. These children will be exploring an age-appropriate Bible-based curriculum.

Exploring Faith

Sunday mornings 10am

This class is for K-4th graders, and is a video curriculum with hands on science activities relating to theology and creation! A fun class, about 40 minutes long.

Connect Class

Sunday mornings 10am

The Connect Class is for 10-12 year olds who have lots of questions! Lessons follow a three-part sequence: **See, Explore, and Make**. Each week, tweens focus on a theme by watching a witty video, exploring biblical text, and creating projects ranging from games to art and more.

Confirmation Classes

Varied times and locations

Confirmation at Our Redeemer's is a 2-year sequence of studying Lutheranism, the church, worship, and why we do what we do. This experience encourages middle schoolers to say YES to God and a life of faith, while encouraging questions and freedom of thought. Confirmation classes and events are at different times in the year. For a full calendar, contact Pastor Gretchen.

Sign Up or Register Online!

Parent Volunteer Sign-Ups

Go to signup.com to help in the classes!

For Connect: <https://signup.com/go/NxCqdCx>

Exploring Faith: <https://signup.com/go/oedaAEU>

Sprouts: <https://signup.com/go/CmmrQFB>

Thank you for participating in the faith life of your child!





FAITH FORMATION – YOUTH

Children's Choir Update

by Pastor Gretchen

Our children's choir is a fun, interactive way for children to explore music, performance, and working together to create something beautiful. Led by Karen Lee and Marie Nordquist, this small group is a dynamic and fun way to broaden your child's faith experience. Open to children from Kindergarten to middle school, they rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. Rehearsals are open to all kids to try it out and see how they like it!



Connect Update

by Pastor Gretchen

Connect is a great class for 5th and 6th grade students, with a hands-on multimedia approach to learning the Bible stories. We have about 3-6 students who attend regularly, and the class is taught by parent volunteers, headed by Pamela Altman and Mandy Neill. More students and teachers are always welcomed and invited to check it out!



FAITH FORMATION – YOUTH

Exploring Faith Update

by Stephanie Fowler

This past month the Exploring Faith class followed Joseph on his journey from Jacob's favored son, to slave, and becoming Pharaoh's advisor. The class had fun with the "to be continued" nature of the lessons, and it was a joy to discover their takeaways from the prior week each Sunday. It's a fun filled class each week with something for everyone, come check it out!



Sprouts Update

by Dana Wright

We have had fun with a great group of 3, 4, and 5 year olds. We've been sharing the planning and teaching duties between Teacher Jessica, Teacher Katlin, and myself on the stories of Genesis, from creation to Jacob and Esau. Over the next few Sundays we will be creating centerpieces for the Thanksgiving dinner.





FAITH FORMATION – ADULTS



Madonnas Book Group Invites All to January 12th Discussion

The Madonnas Book Group has selected the book "Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race" by Debby Irving for their January discussion and extends an invitation to the entire congregation to join them. The discussion date is Sunday, January 12th, time tentatively set for 4pm to 6pm, to be moved if it conflicts with a Seahawks Playoff Game (go Hawks!). For more information, ask Candace Todd-Robbins or Margaret Wetter (margaretwetter@comcast.net).

BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION

Your Vision-Aligned Building Team, Council and Staff have all been working hard over the last month to oversee design, financial/legal, and congregational dimensions of our renovation.

On October 26, our church council met for the third time (October overnight retreat, regular meeting, then this one – YEAH amazing church council!), to talk over how to lead the changes ahead for our congregation in the smoothest way.

They also approved the hiring of Brandy Fox, as a part-time owner's representative (sometimes called a construction project manager) starting in November and going through the duration of the project. Her job will be to look out for Our Redeemer's interests relating to our architects and contractor. Our own staff and volunteers, while tireless and devoted, do not have adequate time or expertise to do this well, and we expect that through her oversight we will save both time and all the money spent to hire her.

Brandy comes with glowing recommendations from more than 20 years overseeing projects for the Seattle, Mercer Island, Tacoma, Bellevue, Snoqualmie Valley, and Vashon Island School Districts, hospitals, and private clients. She comes with architectural, construction, and contractual background and experience. Having worked on so many public projects, she also understands the importance of communicating often and well with our neighbors throughout the project. And she lives in the Ballard area, and cares about the kind of mission Our Redeemer's has.

On November 6th, the Vision-Aligned Building Team and our owner's rep met with our architects, SHKS. We reviewed plans in preparation for the intake building permit appointment with the City of Seattle on November 15th. We discussed the layout of the administrative area, the facade, the area in the sanctuary necessary for a ramp to allow access to the chancel for all, the options for a lift that could transfer our grand piano between the chancel and main floor area, etc.

The following week was devoted to getting solid and current information about where the P-Patch is on their funding efforts and likely timelines; the architects' and contractors' timeline and financial needs around gearing up for construction; working with our attorney on elements of our proposed purchase and sale agreement; reviewing our most recent appraisal for the property we are considering selling; looking at cash flow projections during construction; and developing a more complete budget estimate that includes soft costs like consultants (permits, soils, hazmat, furnishings, etc.).

With all that information in hand, at their last meeting on November 19, our church council reviewed and made changes to the proposed purchase and sale agreement, reviewed the financial review portion of our existing Capital Improvements Policy to be sure we are complying. We are. Council also reviewed two options for authorizing contingency costs that will arise and need to be addressed very quickly during the course of construction. More information was needed, so that policy (which won't be needed until construction actually begins) will be revisited in the future. Our Finance Team will review the policies, and, if necessary, make recommendations about any financial vehicles necessary in the future.



On Monday, December 9, Mike Hlastala (council member and vision-aligned Building Team member), Pastor Kathy, Brandy Fox (owner's rep) and Karie Stearns, our administrator, will meet with representatives of the Ballard P-Patch and GROW (their fiscal representative) to create a mutually agreeable purchase and sale agreement. Once that occurs, it will go to the congregation for a vote. Moving as quickly as we can on this will benefit the PPatch's efforts to find substantial donors, so it may be necessary to have a congregational meeting in December. Stay tuned!

On Sunday, November 17, Pastor Kathy, Council Members Emilie Purvine and Dinah Coble, along with Vision-Aligned Building Team members, Guy Michaelson and Mike Hlastala, led an adult forum reviewing the 2013 strategic plan process that led to this renovation of our building to enhance, rather than hinder our mission; the input from 65+ members about what we needed; and how our project values and goals directly support the three strategic objectives our congregation identified in our strategic plan as our best direction into God's future. The focus on that Sunday was the floor plans for the sanctuary and basement. Since time is always short, people were invited to put any unexpressed questions or comments on post-it's for further consideration and response. The following Sunday, the forum focused on meeting rooms, administrative space, and the landscaping plans between our parking lot and front entrance. These Sunday gatherings were proposed by the Council as a way to get the input of members and users of the spaces and keep us all up to date.

Meanwhile, staff have begun working on possibilities for temporary office and meeting spaces, as well as an approach to communicating with the congregation during construction that will keep us well-connected to each other and to the construction progress, as well as communication with the wider community.

Please feel free to ask your Council members or Vision-Aligned Building Members about any of the above. And also, please consider patting them on the back for the excellent and labor-intensive work they are doing on our behalf, and on behalf of generations to come!



COMMUNITY

"Wherever you go and whatever you do, may the luck of the Irish be there with you."

Our Redeemer's AUCTION is coming to us early this year – January 25th!

Mark your calendars and get ready for a night of fun shenanigans and blessings a'plenty!

Our theme this year is "The Gift of the Irish" and we'll be focusing on St. Brigid, "The Mary of the Gaels." Known for her generosity, her authority, and her strength of will, her feast day falls on February 1st, and so we'll be celebrating with an Irish feast and hearts of green.

The auction is a little different from some that you may have been to, because we focus on community building experiences from our own folks to share, rather than "things" that you can bid on and win. Every item that is donated to the auction, and every dollar that is raised goes back into funding the ministry of our church, and helping us to continue to be a beacon of hope and light in our community. It's win-win-win, all the way around!

The 2020 Auction

January 25, 2020!

An Irish Festival for the Feast of St. Brigid.

"It is easy to halve the potato where there is love." (Irish Proverb)

Get your shillelaghs and your shenanigans ready!



How you can help:

- 1. Think about something you can donate to the auction** – a boat ride, a fancy meal for 8, childcare, being helping hands for someone's home, teaching a craft or skill, a vacation getaway, donating a skill or talent. Some of our most popular items have been carpentry, experiences for children, and songwriting! I believe that everyone has something they can donate – even you!
- 2. Help with the planning team** – we need volunteers to decorate, help run the evening, plan children's activities, count and track bids, bartend, and the ever-elusive clean up team. Contact Pastor Gretchen if you are interested!
- 3. Let us know you're coming!** We don't sell tickets anymore, because we want EVERYONE to be able to attend, regardless of financial means – but we do need to plan. So be a good chap and **RSVP!**

Thank you in advance for your help and excitement about this event – it keeps the Our Redeemer's boat afloat, and reminds us of how much we have, how much we like each other, and what good we can do in the world.



COMMUNITY

CELEBRATE DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

2	Orin Beranek	7	Ingrid Brissette	19	Tim Dugaw
2	Dinah Coble	7	Cheree Chabot	19	Natasha Parker
2	Kyle McBride	7	Karen Wilson	20	Taylor Anderson
4	Umar Abdullah	8	Juniper Niedner	20	Nicole McCormick
4	Erica Lee	9	Angeline Dovich	24	Ronda Andrews
4	Randi Parker	9	Emily Malone	25	Ross Coble
4	Harold Sigurdson	14	Sean Brady	25	Natalie Evidon
4	James Voss	14	Marian Forssen	25	Jesus Ramas Contreras
5	Edward Kloth	16	Ada Brady	26	Johnna Michaelson
6	Fred Flickinger	16	Colin McBride	30	JoAnn Gibson
6	Bob Kromer	16	Iliana Niedner		

A special "happy birthday" to Loraine Radtke who turned 100 years old. She was born November 10, 1919.

CELEBRATING RECENT BAPTISMS

ALL SAINTS DAY - NOVEMBER 3, 2019

Olaf Brissette (left with family and Pastor Kathy) and Ainsley Tung, and Cyanne Tung (right with parents)





COMMUNITY

Luciafest

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15

5:00 pm



Each year the youth of Our Redeemers bring the story of Sankta Lucia to life.

A beloved tradition in Sweden, Lucia's message of light and charity is not to be missed.

You're invited to join us Sunday, December 15th for a traditional tåg (procession), music, food, dancing and beautiful costumes!

For more information contact Marie Nordquist lutequist@yahoo.com or Jana Davis janaledavis@hotmail.com



Christmas Poinsettias

Donate before December 15

Honor your loved ones with Christmas Poinsettias. Again, this year, we are collecting donations for poinsettias, which may be given in memory of or to honor a loved one in your life. Donate any amount you wish in the flower envelopes located in the pews (11am service) or on the clipboards (9am service). Donations must be turned into the church office by Sunday, December 15.



Beer & Carols



Everyone is invited
to sing and
make merry!

December 3 &
December 10
7:00 – 9:00 pm

The Dane - 8000 15th
Ave NW, Seattle

All Ages Welcome!

Cookies Needed for December Special Events

Drop off at Our Redeemer's by December 15th

Bars, drops, sprinkled or frosted, we love cookies. Help guests, neighbors and family have a bite and conversation over coffee and a sweet treat this Christmas season. If you are able to contribute to the nearly 100 dozen confections (home made or store-bought equally appreciated) we use between Lucia, the Children's Pageant and Christmas Eve services please drop them off in the kitchen by the morning of Sunday December 15th.



Caring Community Team Meeting

Saturday, January 11 ~ Noon

Join the Caring Community Team for their January meeting. It will be at the home of Judy Chambers. (Note: we are not having a December Meeting due to Blue Christmas on December 19.)



Holden Village - August 16-22

Calling all Holden-ites! We have reserved 40 spots at Holden Village August 16-22, 2020. Why so late in the summer? Because Pastor Gretchen has been invited to be the village musician that week, and it would be a shame to miss it! Applications are first come, first serve for the group, so get your reservations in soon!

What is Holden Village? It is a beautiful Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade Mountains reachable only by hiking in, or by taking a boat called "Lady of the Lake" to the top of Lake Chelan. A former mining village, it has been restored and built into an amazing facility. The amenities aren't fancy, but they are clean, and nice. Meals are served all together, and there is chapel each evening in the Village Center. Each week in the summer, teaching staff, artists and musicians are brought in to build up and edify the guests of the village. There are crafts for both young and old(er), and there is childcare available at Narnia each day from 8am - 12pm. It is a great getaway and chance to refocus for single folk, families, couples, and people of all flavors. There is no cell phone reception, and it is quite remote – which we think of as a gift! You are invited to consider joining this retreat, and we hope you will.



Carol Sing and Potluck!

*Wednesday, December 18 ~ 12-2pm,
Pastor Kathy's Home, 6514 36th Ave NW*

You are invited to bring something yummy to share, and your singing voice -- no matter how tuneful it is or isn't! We'll have a relaxing, enjoyable time. We'll gather at Pastor Kathy's home.

This gathering is sponsored by Our Redeemer's 50+ year old group, called Life Masters. If you "qualify", please join us!



SOCIAL JUSTICE



The Giving Tree Is Here Make a Difference in Someone's Christmas!

Every year, Our Redeemer's hosts a "Giving Tree" in our narthex, with gifts that homeless children and mothers from Mary's Place, women recovering from domestic violence at New Beginnings, as well as our own Road2Housing guests, have requested. It's an excellent thing, to share generosity during the holidays. If you have questions, contact Paula Hlastala (paulala343@hotmail.com). Happy shopping!

Ballard Sunday Dinner

Sunday, December 15th
Ballard First Lutheran Church

You are invited to make a difference in the Ballard community! Every third Sunday, we have a team of folks from church that make, serve, eat, and cleanup a meal for 50 people who wouldn't have food otherwise. It happens at Ballard First Lutheran (65th and 20th), and it is such a good event. We call it 'Ballard Sunday Dinner' because everyone should have a good hot meal on a Sunday!



Available shifts include:

- 2-6pm Food Prep: Chop, cook, and prepare food under the direction of the leads.
- 4-6:30pm Set Up & Greet: Set up tables and chairs and greet guests as they arrive.
- 5-7:00pm Serve & Close: Finish serving guests, help clean up, and close.

Sign up online at www.tinyurl.com/ballardsundaydinner to take a turn with a shift!



Road to Housing

For the first time ever, we have a full parking lot providing a safe and welcoming space for seven households living in their vehicles. The Urban League continues to work hard for people, bringing people to us, and reducing the barriers of each person to more permanent housing. If you see them around, please say hi and let them know we are glad they are here! If you would like to support their work in more ways, contact [Shannon: outreach@ourredeemers.net](mailto:Shannon:outreach@ourredeemers.net).



Food Insecure? Our Redeemer's Makes a Difference

Food insecurity is a regular conversation amongst those trying to make a difference in our broad communities. It can be defined as: *the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.*

It's safe to say that Our Redeemer's does excellent work making sure our hungry neighbors have delicious food. In November, we went above and beyond.

- 130 Thanksgiving meal volunteers
- We served over 200 hungry neighbors on Thanksgiving Day
- We fed around 60 hungry neighbors at Ballard Sunday Dinner
- We made and shared close to 100 sandwiches with our hungry neighbors

It takes a city to share a Thanksgiving dinner with 250 people and although they do not do it for the recognition, we had over 130 volunteers from Our Redeemers and from our generous neighborhood to prepare, serve, and clean up a huge and delicious meal. Extra love goes to the leads who in addition to modeling hospitality and welcome, put in many hours of work especially:

- Meal design and prep: Carleigh Bedell & Nancy Wessman
- Volunteer coordination and wrangling: Margaret Wetter
- Clean up guru: Nancy Oldenkamp
- Homey set up and restoration of the space: Carolyn Davis
- Sleeping bag securer: Julie Vannoy
- Server: Kari Guddal

Be sure and thank them – and all who served.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Thank you!

At the In-Gathering in November, two semi-truck trailers were filled by churches across the region, and sent off to help wherever they are most needed, whether in the US or World Wide. Our Redeemer's, specifically, sent 112 school kits, 24 Quilts and 8 Personal Care kits in the 2019 Fall Loading. Shipping costs were high and we are still accepting donations to cover them!

We had a good turnout from other churches who took approximately 60 boxes of fabric from Queen Anne Lutheran collections to make more quilts. We recycle!



Lutheran World Relief



January is Immigration Month!

Save your January Sundays at 10am for an educational and inspiring series on Immigration as we consider how Our Redeemers can more faithfully engage this critical issue. Stay tuned for more information!

In Your Generous Words

Generous God, I offer my time, talents and treasure to you,
praying in hope you will use them to:

Continue creating beautiful music • Serve our community • Be a silent partner in your work • Help others who suffer from addiction and are outcast for the nature of their addiction • Continue outreach and strong social justice ministry • Help others • Create a supportive community for me and my girls • Keep families united in thoughts, words, and deeds • Increase the Kingdom • Bring justice • Inspire young people to have faith • Strengthen the spirit and community of Our Redeemer's • Visit shut-ins • Lift up the broken hearted • Use my joy of cooking to serve others • Comfort the poor and needy • Help homeless families • Continue healing my heart and keep me open to serving you and those whom you place in my life in any way I am able • Witness ALL our neighbors • Grow our community in faith and love • Promote the well-being of all • Direct me in helping others • Nurture and bring hope and comfort to others • Give more time to volunteer • Remind us that we live in your economy of abundance as you transform the crooked systems of our world • Preach Jesus' good news in our city as long as people live here • Benefit humanity • Support your work • Bring joy and happiness to others • Do your will through us • Open kids' hearts and minds to the meaning of God's word for them • Reach more people in our community • Be a servant to the community in need • Live one day at a time in good community with fellow people

Dear Our Redeemer's Friends,

Your community's extraordinary gift of \$1,000 is allowing God's work to be done through the power of congregations working together. Beyond helping numerous people and organizations, your gift helped support our Accompaniment Hotline program that assists immigrants seeking accompaniment, and strengthened much needed renter protections in the City of Burien.

People of faith working together have the power to effect radically just change in our world. We look forward to continuing to work together toward a mutual goal: a community where all treat each other as beloved children of God.

Michale Ramos
The Church Council of Greater Seattle

EVERY SUNDAY:

9am - Informal Worship
 10am - Faith Formation for All Ages
 11am - Traditional Worship

DECEMBER 2019

ourredeemers.net/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  Giving Tree 12:30pm Caroling w/ Karen Lee	2 9am Quilters	3  7pm Beer & Carols	4 Office Closed* 6:30pm Children's Choir 7pm Adult & Youth Choir	5 10am Staff Meeting 6pm Centering Prayer	6 	7 9am Worship Team 9-11am Luciafest Rehearsal 3-4:30pm Handbells Rehearsal
8  3pm Norwegian Ladies Chorus	9 9am Quilters	10  7pm Beer & Carols	11 10am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Children's Choir 7pm Adult & Youth Choir	12 6pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Informal Music Ensemble	13 January Visitor Newsletter Content Deadline	14 9-11am Luciafest Rehearsal 3-4:30pm Handbells & Orchestra Rehearsal
15  2pm Ballard Sunday Dinner 5-8pm Luciafest	16 9am Quilters	17 7pm Executive Team Meeting	18 10am Staff Meeting 12pm Carols & Potluck @ Pastor Kathy's 6:30pm Children's Choir; 7pm Adult & Youth Choir	19  6pm Centering Prayer 7-8pm Blue Christmas 7:30pm Informal Music Ensemble	20 	21 9-11am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 3-4:30pm Handbells & Orchestra Rehearsal
22  11am Christmas Pageant	23 	24  4pm Family Candlelight Service 10pm Candlelight Service	25  Merry Christmas	26 Office Closed 6pm Centering Prayer	27 	28
29  New Year's Healing Sunday 10am Combined Worship Service	30 	31 Office Closed				

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



2400 NW 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98117
www.ourredeemers.net
206-783-7900

return service requested

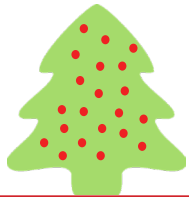
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REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP

9am Informal Service
10am Faith Formation for All Ages
11am Traditional Service

WEEKLY THURSDAY WORSHIP

6pm Centering Prayer



SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Luciafest | Sunday, December 15, 5pm

A beloved tradition in Sweden, Lucia's message of light and charity is not to be missed.

Blue Christmas | Thursday, December 19, 7pm

This worship service honors your melancholy feelings and frustrations and offers comfort, hope, and healing.

Christmas Pageant | Sunday, December 22, 11am

Our children reenact the story of the journey of Mary and Joseph and all the characters they meet along the way!

Family Candlelight Service | Christmas Eve, 4pm

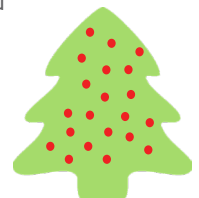
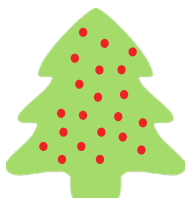
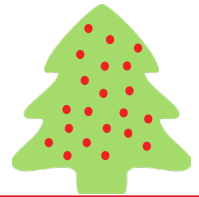
Featuring the story "Mary's Treasure Box," we will unwrap the gifts Jesus received, and hear the good news of Jesus' love in our lives today.

Candlelight Service | Christmas Eve, 10pm

Picture the still darkness of a candlelight service united in the sacred sounds of "Silent Night", faces lit by candlelight...

New Years Healing Service | Sunday, December 29, 10am

Come, bring your resolutions and your hopes to resolve once again that Love wins, and God is good.



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.