

FEBRUARY 2021

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

TheVisitor



LENT
Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 17, 7:00 PM
Page 7

A Community in the Model of Christ

Contents

FROM THE PASTOR 3

LIVING GENEROUSLY 4

WORSHIP & MUSIC 5

BUILD THE VISION UPDATE 8

FAITH FORMATION 10

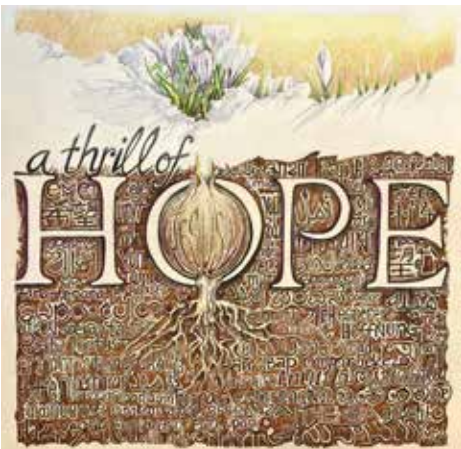
COMMUNITY 15

SOCIAL JUSTICE 18

CALENDAR 19



The community art project "Ribbons of Hope" fence will be up until summer, so if and when you're so moved, add your ribbon or message of hope on the construction fence at the church!



- Katherine Hawks, Pastor kathyh@ourredeemers.net
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator administrator@ourredeemers.net
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From the Pastor...



Community Engagement – what does this mean?

Have you started wondering and dreaming about the potential for our newly remodeled building? What's it going to be like for worship? For education? For special events? I sure hope you have.

I have been envisioning all kinds of amazing ways of being church together in the space. Probably, the pandemic has made me fantasize about it even more than I otherwise would have! Imagine this...

- Hosting musical events that are open to the neighborhood and inspire us to dream. Not only that, but they are well-lit and well-heard!
- Inviting the neighborhood to a worship service that includes a full meal and a food pantry where people can sing and pray and eat and get groceries if they need them.
- Premiering a new documentary about saving Washington's waterways and inviting folks from NOAA and National Geographic and around the country to participate.
- Curating a songwriter's workshop for local church musicians culminating in liturgical art that can be used throughout the world!

As we dream about how God's gift of the amazing asset of our new fully-functional, open, bright, beautiful space can be best used, it is clear that intentionality and open conversation are going to be imperative.

As part of this journey forward together as a congregation, Pastor Kathy and I have begun forming a Community Engagement team. The team will be tasked with creating a vision process to guide the usage of our

new space. We are inviting not only a variety of folks from our congregation, but also non-church folks from our community to consult with us – people from the areas of social justice, the arts, and organizations like the P-Patch.

As a church, we are leading the way forward as diligent stewards, listening to the needs of our community as well as the needs of our own worshiping body. There are places they overlap, and places where they diverge.

When we start to broaden our understanding of community and invite different groups and people to join us in our space, embodying our vision of being a community in the model of Christ, change will surely come. As a congregation, we inherently hope to change for the better the lives of those who rub shoulders with us. If we are wise, we also pray that God will change us through those relationships, too – even when that seems intimidating or uncertain in outcome.

We are in an enduring time of growth and hope in our congregation, even while our country is in an ongoing time of crisis. We are blessed to be doing God's will because we trust in God's abundance, and refuse to give in to the lie that we are in a time of scarcity.



Thanks be to God!



LIVING GENEROUSLY

God, what are you calling me to offer? Thanks be to God!

That's what we ask God weekly during the offering. Then, we offer our gifts to God, aware that all we have – life, possessions, loved ones, talents – are signs of God's love for us.

With that prayer in our hearts, last November our congregation made pledges to God's mission for 2021. And you, **God's generous-hearted people**, pledged \$365,683, an increase of more than \$40,000 from last year. Based on historical giving patterns, we also anticipate \$145,000 in non-pledge automatic giving.

Thank you, people of Our Redeemer's for such generosity of heart, time, and money during this extremely difficult time!

Thank you, too, for generous year-end giving, to help us begin 2021 stable and strong. For all this and more.... Thanks be to God!



Giving Options

Write a check out to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. Mail the check to the church's temporary address at 5306 Ballard Ave NW, Ste 226, Seattle, WA 98107.

Text Using Your Cell Phone

Enter: 206-717-8465 and the amount you wish to donate and press send.

Find all the ways you can give with instructions at ourredeemers.net/donate.

THANK YOU FOR GENEROUSLY SHARING FROM WHAT GOD HAS PLACED IN YOUR HANDS.



Renovate

Our LENTEN THEME:

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

Prayer – in some ways so simple and direct. As in Anne LaMotte's book Help! Thanks! Wow! At other times, prayer is deeper than words. And then, there are the times we don't even know how to start or may wonder if God is listening.

We aren't alone! Jesus' disciples also felt at a bit of a loss when it came to prayer...Which is why they asked him, "Lord, teach us to pray." [Luke 11:1]

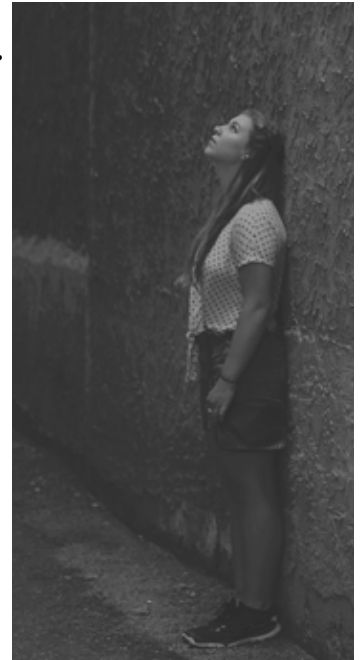
His response was the prayer we call The Lord's Prayer or the Our Father. As often as we pray it, we can continue to learn from it and be shaped by it, along with connecting to God through it.

As part of continuing to bolster our faith as we bolster and renovate our building this year, we are revisiting the foundations of our faith – including this gift from Jesus to us.

What better focus during Lent, when we focus on letting God shape us and grow us into the person we were created to be, and into the person God calls us to be in God's world?

Go deeper into the Lord's Prayer and your own Lenten growth through:

- Our congregational Lenten devotional, delivered to you daily by e-mail. (Be sure we have your [current email address](#).)
- Our Adult Forums (see page 11).



Lent During the Pandemic? *by Dave Eicke*



At the end of 2020, the US Supreme Court made a ruling in a case about the closure of a church during the pandemic. In the ruling the court stated "While we are not public health experts, the constitution remains the constitution, even in a pandemic." At the time, I thought this an interesting concept and filed it away for future consideration.

Fast-forward to the beginning of 2021. I was thinking I wasn't going to give up anything for Lent this year, even though I had done so for the last 15 years. I had involuntarily given up so much over the past year. Wasn't that enough? The Supreme Court's reasoning came back to me. A spiritual practice remains a spiritual practice, even in a pandemic. God remains God, even in a pandemic. I had my answer. I would give up something for Lent this year just as always.

So, starting Wednesday February 17th I will give up nostalgia for 40 days.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Centering Prayer When it Works for You

Silence can be one of the most healing realities there is. When we're not used to it, we may feel awkward or uncomfortable, but even so, the quiet of a night without jets in the sky or Netflix in the background is often just what our souls need.

Every Wednesday, the gift of 30 minutes of quiet prayer is yours.

If you can't "live Zoom" at that time, look for it on Our Redeemer's Facebook page, as it will be recorded there for viewing later so you can pray at any time that works for you.

Danielle Modeen, who has decades of experience in both Buddhist meditation and Centering Prayer, leads us with 10 minutes of quiet music or chant, followed by 20 minutes of silence, and then a 2-3 minute reading. Those who come to prayer remain quiet the whole time.

Simple guidelines for Centering Prayer will always be available on Zoom chat. But this is not a way of praying just for specially-gifted people. It is simply for anyone who feels drawn to it, and wants to be more open to God.

Zoom Information:

<https://zoom.us/j/98417009634?pwd=aTloK1h5MUt6SjhzROxYRHRwMlg5UT09>

Join by phone call: +1 (206) 337-9723

Meeting ID: 984 1700 9634

Passcode: 132934



11 AM Sunday Online/Phone Worship Instructions

We gather each Sunday online at 11:00 AM. Here are three ways to connect.

By Facebook Live. Go to www.facebook.com/ourredeemers. You don't have to have a Facebook account – it's a public channel.

By Phone. Call 1 206 337 9723, and then enter this number when prompted: 822 691 346. This method only lets you listen, but it works well.

By Zoom. Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>. The link works from 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM every Sunday.

Our Welcome Minister will be monitoring the chat and make sure that our worship leaders get your questions. The bulletin each Sunday will be available on our website for download at www.ourredeemers.net/virtual-worship/.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 PM [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)

At 7:00 PM on Ash Wednesday we will host a live service for our congregation and our community. Our service will include beautiful music, confession, absolution, and a brief sermon. Prior to the service, you will receive ash crosses in the mail in the form of temporary tattoos to use.

WHY do we do this? Nadia Bolz-Weber says: "Ash Wednesday is my favorite day of the church year and Lent is my favorite season. Our culture has no idea what to do with this day. But to me, there is actually great hope in admitting my mortality and brokenness because then I finally lay aside my sin management program and allow God to be God for me. Which is all any of us really need when it comes right down to it." Join us.

A Lenten Devotional – Created by You!

Calling all Children of God! If you're a big reader, a photographer, an artist, a writer, or a thinker – we would love for you to participate in our Lenten devotional!

For Lent this year, we are hoping to engage the congregation around one word each week, from all different angles. Tying together with Dana Wright's class on the Lord's Prayer that is being offered, we have pulled six focus words from the Lord's Prayer: Holy, (God's) Will, Bread, Forgive, Temptation, and (God's) Kingdom. Each day of Lent, our folks will receive a devotional email reflection on that word. **You are invited to sign up for a "word" for one day, which will include a reflection piece.**

Reflection pieces can be anything that resonates for you – artwork, a song or hymn, a favorite Bible story or parable, a passage from a book, a poem, or a part of nature.

For example, take the word "Bread." It may inspire you to share the song "Come Let Us Eat" from the hymnal. So, you would sign up for a day with that word and indicate that you will share a reflection on the song. Then, write a brief paragraph or story, explaining how you connect the word from the Lord's Prayer with the reflection piece you have chosen.

You are not limited by the categories given – for example, if a person wanted to talk about how a certain plant gives them insight about the Kingdom of God, that would be amazing. Or if someone had a favorite poem that talked about forgiveness, that would be brilliant. It's really up to you!

Here's the link to sign up: <https://rb.gy/bavalc>

We appreciate you taking the time to create a small reflection for our congregation in the spirit of Lent. It's an important time for us to go inward and reflect on our faith. Sharing our findings from that time of reflection is a gift! Everything we can do these days to stay connected to God and each other is worth our time.

Please email [Pastor Gretchen](#) if you have any questions, or if this is confusing. Your willingness to try is appreciated! We ask that you have your reflection to us by February 5th, so the staff can get it out to the congregation in a timely manner.



BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION

What Happened Last Month: Renovation Update

Main Level



Rough-in at Admin



Chancel Floor Framed



Lowered Chapel Floor Joists

1/15/2021: Mechanical and electrical rough-in is underway on the upper level. The framing of the Chancel floor is nearly complete with one section at the Chapel remaining. This small area is anchored into the masonry walls and will be done and inspected with other masonry work in the Sanctuary.



The VAB team has worked with the architect on the design solution for the Chapel. As mentioned in earlier updates, the Chancel and Chapel floors will be on the same level to facilitate access for all. In addition, the “forest” of reclaimed pew wood will be backed by opaque glass walls and a door that will allow both visual and audible isolation between the two spaces, while still bringing in light to the Chapel and connecting it to the Sanctuary. The architect’s rendering above is from the perspective of standing on the Chancel looking south at the Chapel with the ramp to the right or west.

The lower level of the building is also making good progress. All concrete walls have been poured and forms stripped, the ramp is in place with two classroom doors relocated, and the infill at the south stair is complete. Framing and plumbing rough-in is also complete with inspections occurring this week.

BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION

(continued from previous page)

PROJECT STATUS

Schedule: No Change – Church access late summer 2021

Date	Construction Contingency	Project Contingency
7/12/20	\$217,854	\$67,153
9/1/20	\$217,854	\$57,415
9/30/20	\$217,854	\$57,415
10/15/20	\$199,609	\$57,415
11/14/20	\$170,121	\$61,719
12/1/20	\$167,164	\$61,719
12/15/20	\$160,570	\$61,179
1/15/21	\$142,045	\$61,179

Charges against the Construction Contingency to date include:

- Lowering the Chapel floor to bring it to the same level as the Chancel and provide full ADA access.
- Providing a portable toilet with hand-washing facilities for the Road to Housing clients for the duration of construction.
- Providing internet access to the site during construction due to removal required for service at new Ballard temporary finance office.
- Added framing and footing due to hidden conditions in framing at Narthex/Restroom area.
- Replace electrical conduit and wire that were in the Chancel floor framing.
- Chancel floor framing changes to due as-built condition.
- Replace insulation in Administration area ceiling that was damaged by removal of asbestos popcorn ceilings.
- Add foundation and concrete costs due to lower-level concrete walls at south addition.
- Modification to Fellowship Hall Operable Wall to hang from beam vs. ceiling.
- Credit of \$400 for changing lower-level storefront and door to aluminum and adding electric strike.
- Revise Chapel north wall design.
- Raise hydronic pipes in basement to eliminate damage potential.



GOD'S CALL | OUR VISION

SEE MORE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR YOURSELF... Visit our [renovation website page](#) for the most current construction videos, pictures, and more!



FAITH FORMATION

Wednesday Bible Study

Every Wednesday, 10:30 AM - Noon

[via Zoom](#) Passcode: bible

by Carolyn Swanson, Study Leader



Where have we been:

1. Since September 2020 we have been in the Old Testament (or Hebrew Scriptures or Tanakh) during the years of the Babylonian Exile of the Southern Kingdom (tribes of Judah and Benjamin) That exile started with a two-stage deportation - 597 and 587 BCE - and presumably ended with the conquest of Babylon by the Persian king Cyrus the Great in 538 BCE.
2. Restoration of the Judean Kingdom - not an easy task
3. Inter-Testament years about 400 of them With the Old Testament canon closing with Malachi at about 397 B.C., we see that this period between Malachi and Matthew covers some four hundred years. This four-hundred-year interval has been called "the dark period" of Israel's history in pre-Christian times, because during it there was neither prophet nor inspired writer. With this period, we seem to find the sad fulfillment of Psalm 74:9 upon Israel: "We see not our signs; there is no more any prophet; neither is there among us any that knows how long."

Where will be in February (when, hopefully, you will join us)

It is exciting! We are crossing over to the New Testament to the Book of 1st Thessalonians, supposedly, depending on whom you check, the first of St. Paul's letters to the churches where he ministered. Date estimated at 48 CE. We will be connecting dots between Old and New and learning about the young churches who would be the root of Christianity in the years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. And, to our point, how are we doing in being little Christs, as Luther puts it?

Why are you invited? Or Why give it a try? The Word of God is a very important part of staying close to your faith and your God. Sunday morning sermons are vital, as are other studies on Sundays before worship services (9:30 AM). I heartily recommend them! The difference is a whole hour + of looking into Scripture. We begin with prayer and then the learning. There are surprises to be found, comfort to be felt, challenges to be met, opportunities to question and comment (if you want to). And not to be considered least, I think you will like us. We could become some more people to fellowship with during this COVID-19 separation. Pray about it. All are welcome! Let Carolyn Swanson know if you are interested: cdkswan@gmail.com or (206) 390-7732.

Our Staff Are Working From Home

The best way to reach any church staff during COVID19 and CONSTRUCTION is via e-mail. In addition, our pastors and parish administrator are reserving regular virtual office hours specifically to take your real time phone calls and texts. Those "office" hours are:

Pastor Gretchen: Tuesdays ~ 9:00 AM-noon pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net. Phone or text: 206.920.4768

Pastor Kathy: Thursdays ~ 9:00 AM-noon kathyh@ourredeemers.net. Phone or text: 206.356.0597

Parish Administrator Karie Stearns: Monday-Friday: administrator@ourredeemers.net. Phone: 206.783.7901

Email our "Virtual Front Office" Tuesday-Friday: office@ourredeemers.net

For Communications inquiries, email: communications@ourredeemers.net



FAITH FORMATION

Renovate - Our Faith

Lord, Teach Us To Pray: Adult Forums in Lent

Sundays, February 22 thru March 29 - 9:30 AM

Passcode "Adult" Meeting ID: 945 4145 3039 [Zoom Link](#)

Dana Wright, an Our Redeemer member will lead our adult forums. Dana Wright has an M Div from Fuller Seminary and a Ph D in Christian Education from Princeton Seminary. He has taught in congregations and seminaries in the United States and India and written essays on Christian Education in books and periodicals especially focused on the work of the Holy Spirit in human thought and experience in the thought of James Loder. At Our Redeemer's, he helps teach the Sprouts class and serves on the Faith Formation and Generosity Teams.



Teach Us to Pray - Based on the Lord's Prayer, Matt. 6:9-13

The church knows the Lord's Prayer in Matthew's Gospel as a staple of liturgical devotion. But the prayer should also be known as "the Disciples' Prayer." Jesus does not teach his followers a formal prayer for use in the temple or synagogue so much as a prayer of survival on the streets. Jesus' concern is to teach the disciples to depend upon the Father for living obediently (i.e., righteously) to the call of radical discipleship in the world. In such a world disciples will be assailed on all sides and tempted to compromise their convictions and distort their witness to the Reign of God. The Disciples Prayer does not take the disciples out of the world but follows the "downward" movement of Christ's Incarnation where Immanuel, "God with us," takes hold to reorient us and equip us to represent Christ in a lost and needy world. We might even say that all true prayer, based on the Disciples' Prayer, follows this downward, incarnational pattern.

February 22: "Our Father Who Art in Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name."

Jesus begins his instructive prayer by orienting the disciples to the creative origin of all life and blessedness, the Father in heaven. "Our Father" denotes community and intimacy. The Father does not have to be cajoled to give grace and mercy. But this intimate connection does not overshadow the fact that the Father is holy. God is our Father but not our buddy. Our source of existence is the transcendent but intimate Father.

March 1: "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done, on Earth as It Is in Heaven." The disciples are to prayer for God's heavenly authority and power to come to earth. Implied here is that the disciples are invested in God's reign making itself known in the world. Disciples know that the last, best, and only hope for the world is the coming and present reign of God. The verbs are imperative and passionate: "Bring your kingdom." "Make your will active and sure among us."

March 8: "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread." Moving downward to the very nitty gritty of human existence, the prayer recognizes God as the source of earthly, embodied, existence. The Father's reign is not so holy that the common concerns of daily human existence are not central to God's concerns. Disciples recognize that God is a materialist and a humanist in their daily prayers.

March 15: "Forgive Us Our Debts as We Forgive Our Debtors." The prayer of the disciples goes further down into the recesses of human existence. Human beings cannot live by bread alone but by the Word of God taking root deeply within our spirits where ongoing forgiveness is essential. But the wording here may also indicate economic well-being. Disciples do well not to over spiritualize the prayer that Jesus taught them. The reconciliation and justice we extend to others through forgiveness debts may be a central feature of the prayer that we ignore to our peril.

March 22: "Lead Us Not into Temptation but Deliver Us from Evil." The prayer moves down deeper into the place where the issues of life come up again and again. The prayer recognizes our tendencies toward waywardness, both our tendencies to place ourselves in tempting circumstances and our tendencies to get ourselves mixed up into the most egregious and dehumanizing attitudes and actions. All of our actions come from the heart, and in the disciples prayer we pray for God's strength to maintain purity of heart.

March 29: "For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory Forever, Amen." This phrase was probably added to the prayer to make it suitable to formal worship. But we might also understand this phrase in light of Irenaeus' wonderful phrase: The glory of God is humanity fully alive." Downward movement after the pattern of Christ, who thought it not equality with God something to be grasped, resulted in glorification.

HARDSHIP AND HOPE by Tamara Anderson

An incidental, yet delightful, soul satisfying, properly socially distanced, and in-person interaction with Pastor Kathy Hawks recently led to an invitation to share a thought and experience.



When asked how she was, Kathy, literally, had no words. Her arms in the air and an almost silent sigh said it all. It is hard. This pandemic is hard. It is really, really hard. Life, as we all know it, has been turned upside down, sideways, and inside out. It has elongated and constricted. People have died. She mentioned she turns to those who have lived through The Depression as one way to understand and persevere. I flippantly, and in all humble seriousness, replied, I turn to myself. She paused but a moment before realizing exactly what I meant.

Amidst much of life's lovelinesses, I, like many, have also been thrown some hard stuff. Multiple adverse childhood experiences aside, I have been devastated in adult life by social, emotional, or economic loss. The church has witnessed and held me in it all. While awful and I never wish hardship of any kind upon anyone at any time, ever, I have to say there are some positive takeaways. And, these takeaways, thankfully, have allowed me to enter into, and be with this current, more collective, hardship in a way that I know is likely different. Stronger.

I read an article in Psychology Today recently that spoke of "existential courage," a term that caught my attention. Basically, it is a decision. Every human can make it. Rather than wondering why bad things happen to good people, we re-frame: what can good people do when bad things happen? I experienced just that in my times of hardship. The good things people did for me sustained and carried me through; delivering me from evil, as it were.

The idea of existential courage is not asking oneself, "What did I do to deserve this?" Rather, it is crafting a meaningful response to misfortune. This, too, is Victor Frankl's thinking behind his theory of psychology, Logotherapy, shaped by his and all devastating experiences related to The Holocaust. In addition to Frankl, Anne Frank and Laura Ingalls Wilder have been some of my chosen and revisited authors through this pandemic. Like Kathy and her comment about The Depression, they give me additional perspective on hardship and hope. Perhaps sharing a little of my own experience, adds yet another perspective to your own bank of resources.

If there's one thing I know, it can get bad, really bad. And, even after it is bad, it can get worse. And ... it can get better. Sometimes that takes time and not always our time. But what I am glad for more than anything else is you. And, I hope that you are glad for me. In my mid-twenties, driving north on the Ship Canal Bridge, I had an epiphany that has guided much of my life and career. It hit me that relationship was everything and without it, well, we are going to have a really hard time. That was my conviction, as a counseling graduate student at the time, to serve others to craft healthy relationships, with themselves and each other. With that I say, let us be attentive. Take care of one another. This is hard. And, it could get worse. It is going to be OK. Craft a meaningful response. God is with you.

**Tamara's thoughts are the latest in an occasional feature in The Visitor during the pandemic. Do you have reflections or a story about your experience and faith during this time, that you're willing to share? If so, please [contact Pastor Kathy](#).*



FAITH FORMATION

The JOURNEY: **Is God calling you to “Journey”** **this year?**

Sundays, February 28 thru March 21
4:00 – 5:30 PM

[Zoom Link](#) or

Join by Phone Call: +1 (206) 337-9723

Meeting ID: 944 1193 2327

Passcode: 940650

Do you want to know more about becoming a member of Our Redeemer's community and/or deepening your faith? We invite you to take part in "The Journey".

The JOURNEY is a chance to:

- Get acquainted with members and ministries that make up Our Redeemer's.
- Learn how Our Redeemer's' understanding of God and the Bible may or may not be what you're familiar with.
- Ask questions and share experiences and figure out where you'd like to be involved.
- Spend time with God's vision for Our Redeemer's' future: What's planned? What's still being shaped? How can you participate?
- Start to feel more like you belong.

Last year, sadly, we had to stop right in the middle of the Journey due to COVID precautions. Now, we're MUCH more zoom savvy – and, probably, Zoom weary. SO, we're shortening and changing things.

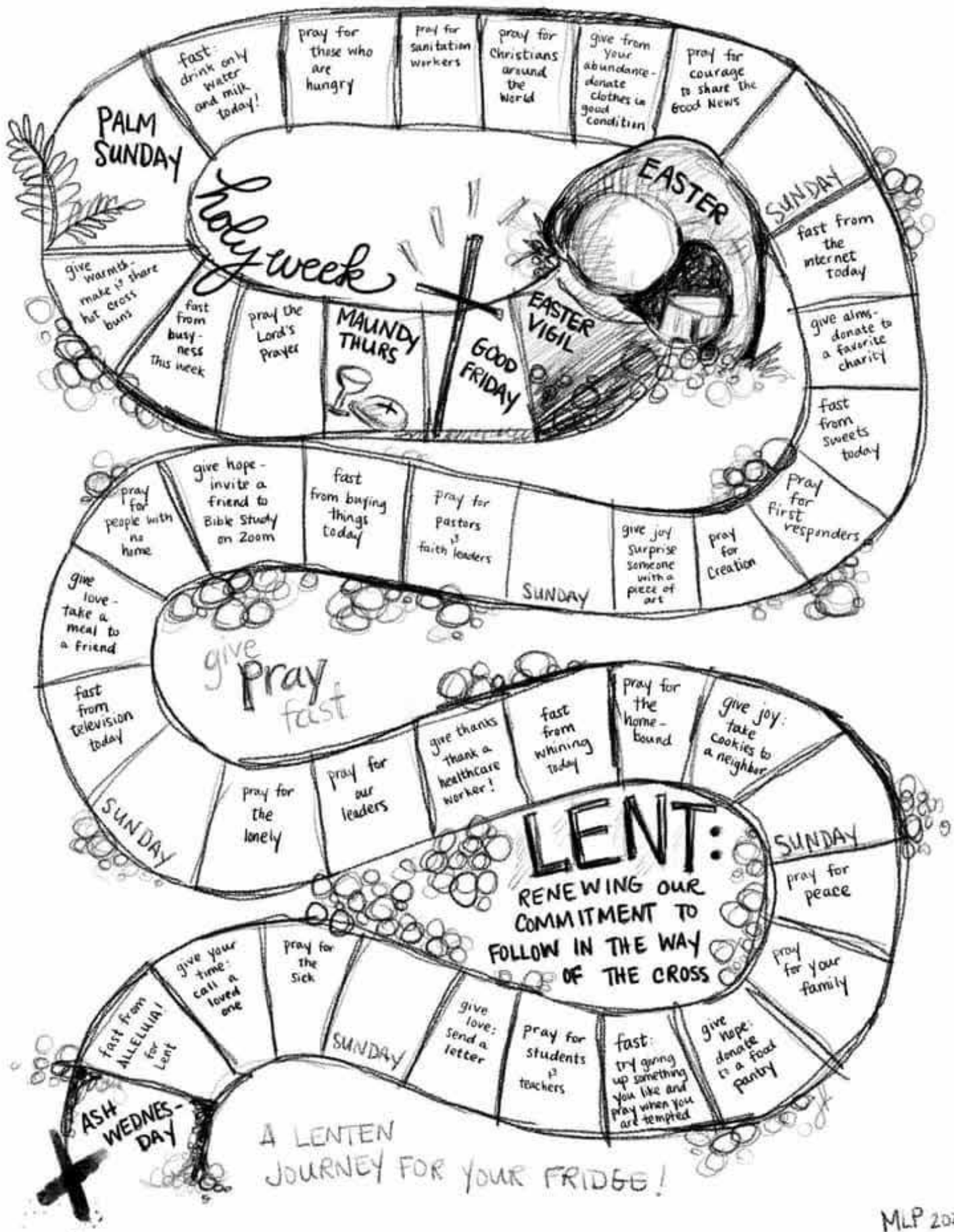
Take a look, and then let Pastor Kathy (kathyh@ourredeemers.net) or Pastor Gretchen (pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net) know, if you'd like to be a part of the Journey or if you have any questions.

We'll meet four Lenten Sunday afternoons from 4 to 5:30PM on [Zoom \(LINK\)](#): February 28, March 7, March 14, and March 21.

The Journey is a great way to connect with this wonderful community of faith. Is God calling you to "Journey" this year?



The February 2021 edition of *The Spirit*, a monthly publication of the NW Washington Synod, is available to download and view. This month's edition features articles written by Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee and Synod Vice President, Kay Edgerton. Find a PDF of the full edition at <https://lutheransnw.org/news/the-spirit>.



A Lenten Journey for Your Fridge: This graphic is especially great for families to put up on your fridge for Lent. You can also [download and print the PDF](https://ourredeemers.net/a-lenten-journey-for-your-fridge): (<https://ourredeemers.net/a-lenten-journey-for-your-fridge>)



COMMUNITY

It's an Online Double Play! "Field of Dreams"

Starting February 7, our week-long silent auction leads up to one fabulous evening of live bidding and baseball-themed fun!

by Pastor Gretchen

We are moving our auction and festival online this year! From February 7-13, we will have a silent auction with baskets, experiences, classes and other goodies offered by our own members.

On Saturday, February 13th at 7:00 PM, we will have a live auction and gala, hosted by Pastor Gretchen and our own brilliant funnyman, Mr. Tim Hunter. There will be exciting items, fun games, and of course, some entertainment for us to experience together live on Zoom.

As you know, the auction is a fun, community building way for us to support the ministry and mission of our church family! As fundraising is key to our organization's flourishing, it is important for everyone to contribute and participate in whatever way they can. There is still time for you to help procure an item, or just join in on the bidding fun! Don't forget to invite your friends to participate!

Our auction will be hosted on "Bidding Owl" – a nonprofit online auction page. A link will be made available before the auction.

Our 'Field of Dreams' baseball – themed party will be at 7 PM on Saturday, February 13th. We encourage every member of our community to be a "Table Captain," and invite your friends to a pre-party hangout / happy hour at 6:30 PM. You'll have the opportunity to look over the live auction items, laugh with your friends, and connect your church life with the rest of your universe! Then join the big party at 7 PM and be ready to bid on live items and finish bidding on the online silent items!

How you can help with our auction fundraiser:

1. **Be a Table Captain** – Invite 8 friends to a private pre-party Zoom on February 13th. Everyone can do this! [Contact Pastor Gretchen](#) for details.
2. **Help with Live Auction Procurement (Deadline is 2/3)!** Do you have a vacation home? Do you have season tickets to sporting events or the theater? Do you know someone generous who does? Either fill out our donation form or [email Pastor Gretchen](#) with your idea, or fill out our online [Auction Procurement Form](#).
3. **Help with Silent Auction procurement (Deadline is 2/3)!** This is a big need. We are looking for 50 items, classes, or experiences. Do you have a skill that you can share? Are you a photographer, baker, artist, musician, or craftsperson? Can you teach yoga, or rowing, or strength training? Can you offer a sunset cruise on your boat, or deliver a 3-course meal to a family? Could you teach a cooking class? Can you babysit? Can you do yard work? How about interior painting, or tiling a back splash? Can you string holiday lights on someone else's house? The sky is the limit, and we need all the fun ideas we can get!

Think about what you can do and send an email with your idea to [Pastor Gretchen](#), or if you're sure you want to donate, use our [Auction Procurement Form](#).





COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

4	Tamara Anderson	9	Carleigh Bedell	21	Karina Hlastala
4	Michael Hammett	9	Sydney Record	22	Weller Mertes
5	Henry Fowler	11	Miguel Maier	24	Sonja Vonheim-Condon
6	Harold Alley	12	Guy Michaelsen	26	Barb Dougherty
6	Raleigh Somm	13	Earl Ecklund III	28	Kristine Leander
7	Gary Schulze	16	Eric Johnson	29	Owen Watkins
8	Cara Kiggins	20	Karen Carlson		
8	David Schoolcraft	20	Karen Lee		

Council

What Happens at Church Council Meetings?

Take a peek yourself because Church Council meetings are open to anyone in the congregation! Council meets on Zoom the third Tuesday of each month. If you'd like observe a Council meeting, contact our Parish Administrator, Karie Stearns, at administrator@ourredeemers.net.

Madonna's Book Group

Sunday, February 21, 4pm [via Zoom](#)

On February 21st the Madonna's Book Group will be doing our "COVID format" which is a lot of chatter about the virus and vaccinations and catching up on our lives. It always good to see some smiling faces. Instead of reading a particular book, we will recommend books we have read and think others would enjoy. Please join us in February! If you are new to the group and have questions, contact Lynne McNeill buckomcneill@yahoo.com.



COMMUNITY

Congregational Meeting – February 7, 1:00 PM

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

Join by Phone Call: +1 (206) 337-9723

Meeting ID: 822 691 346

Most years, Our Redeemer's has three congregational meetings: one in the fall; one in the winter; and one in late June/early July. The first two are more informational and conversational than official. Usually, there are no votes, just updates.

The last couple years, various matters relating to the renovation, and then the pandemic, have interrupted that rhythm. This winter, we return to it.



Join your friends on February 7 for updates on:

- **Our Redeemer's finances.**
- **The vision-aligned building project progress and finances.**
- **Staff and ministry planning and goal-setting for 2021-22 with our newly renovated facility in mind.**

This meeting is also an opportunity to bring our questions. Topical break out rooms relating to the presentations will be available, and also, three additional break-out rooms on Governance, Communications and Relationship-Building. Be sure to come!

If you have any difficulties or questions relating to accessing this meeting, please call Katlin Dickinson-Laurence at 206-783-7900. (She is off Mondays.)



Caring Community Team

Mark your Calendars: the next Caring Community Team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7 PM [via Zoom](#).

The Caring Community Team is dedicated to sharing comfort and support through visits, meals, cards, communion, and prayer shawls. Contact [Linda Carbone](#) for more information or if you want to join in. All are welcome!



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Ballard Sunday Dinner Needs You!

Every third Sunday of the month members from Our Redeemer's head over to Ballard First Lutheran Church to prepare a meal for the community's population in need. We always need at least 6 volunteers to put together around 50 meals to go, hand them out, and then clean up after ourselves. You can sign up for meal prep and serving, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM, or clean up from 5:00 to 6:30 PM or so. The next one is February 21st. Sign up online at [this LINK](#) or email Emilie Purvine, emiliepurvine@gmail.com.



Petition Request from Our Redeemer's Social Justice Team

After witnessing the white supremacy and institutional racism revealing itself violently in DC and our state capitol earlier this month, we invite you to consider joining our church council in signing and sharing [this letter and petition](#) in support of Dr. Ben Danielson. Dr. Danielson recently resigned after more than 20 years leading the Odessa Brown Children's Hospital, citing long-held and deeply-rooted racism in the hospital system.

Read more about his reasons for leaving and the community's calls to action in [this Crosscut article](#). Faith Action Network, the advocacy organization which Our Redeemer's is a member of, and which is supported by the ELCA (our denomination) endorses the petition, and our church council has also signed it. If you are without a computer and want to know more, please contact [Marie Brissette](mailto:Marie.Brissette@liebergm@gmail.com) (liebergm@gmail.com). Thank you for your consideration.

Social Justice Search Team Update

Your social justice search team met the first week of January to return to the work of finding the right person to oversee and lead our social justice ministries, and help us strengthen our ties with the wider community, and our marginalized neighbors.

We are advertising far and wide for this flexible, 20 hour a week position. Do you know of anyone with a passion for justice, love for the church, and experience in working with volunteers, and building new bridges? If so, please invite them to check out Our Redeemer's website, where they will find the job description and information about how to apply. The deadline is January 28. Any questions you have may be forwarded to Tom Bernard, Leslie Wander, Ronda Andrews, Marie Brissette, Eric Running or [Pastor Kathy](#).

Mandy Neill to Provide Interim Support for Road to Housing

As we search for our social justice coordinator during this unusual pandemic time, we are especially concerned to support and relate to our Road to Housing guests, and keep that program strong. Mandy Neill will be doing that until we find our social justice staff person.











Mandy Neill has been attending Our Redeemers for a little over two years. As someone with a life-long passion for seeking social justice in her community, she was happy to step in to help with our Road to Housing program in the interim. Mandy has experience in social justice work within the foster care realm. Her last major employment was with Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, creating and leading a network of over 60 churches and community agencies throughout King and Snohomish counties who served the foster care system. Mandy and her husband Matt are former foster parents, and were actually able to adopt one of their children out of foster care.

Prior to that she has over 15 years of experience working within the church, recruiting and empowering volunteers. Mandy is a self-professed "organizational nerd" and loves taking big vision initiatives and breaking them down into the organizational structures needed. She's been volunteering her love for organization alongside Pastor Gretchen on the Faith Formation Team this past year, and after almost 2 years of being home with her kids (due to chronic health issues), she loves being able to utilize this part of her brain again, especially as a break from "remote learning" during this pandemic. Mandy's husband Matt is a woodworker. Both are Seattle natives, and they have 2 kids; ages 9 and 13.

Note: The events on this calendar are online meetings or events; all groups may choose to meet online. Check with your group leader or email office@ourredeemers.net for Zoom info

FEBRUARY 2021

ourredeemers.net/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 Silent Auction Online Begins 12pm 9:30am Adult Forum 9:30am Sprouts 11 am Worship 1pm Congregational Meeting	1 7pm Faith Formation Team	2 10am-1pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Gretchen 7:30pm Generosity Team	3 Office Closed# 8:30am Social Justice Search Team 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Adult Choir	4 9am-12pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Kathy 3:45pm Staff Meeting	5	6
7 Silent Auction Online Begins 12pm 9:30am Adult Forum 9:30am Sprouts 11 am Worship 1pm Congregational Meeting	8 Silent Auction Online	9 Silent Auction Online 10am-1pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Gretchen 7pm Executive Team	10 Silent Auction Online 10:30am Bible Study 1pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Adult Choir	11 Silent Auction Online 9am-12pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Kathy	12 Silent Auction Online	13 Silent Auction Ends / Live Auction 
14 ❤️ 9:30am Adult Forum 9:30am Sprouts 11 am Worship	15 Presidents Day Office Closed 	16 March Newsletter Content Due 10am-1pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Gretchen 7pm Council Meeting	17 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:30am Bible Study 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	18 9am-12pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Kathy	19	20
21 9:30am Adult Forum 9:30am Sprouts 11 am Worship 2pm Ballard Sunday Dinner 4pm Madonna's Book Group	22	23 10am-1pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Gretchen 7pm Theology on Tap	24 10:30am Bible Study 1pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Adult Choir	25 9am-12pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Kathy	26	27 9am Faith Formation Retreat
28 9:30am Adult Forum 9:30am Sprouts 11 am Worship 4pm The Journey!						

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



5306 Ballard Ave NW
Ste 226
Seattle, WA 98107
www.ourredeemers.net
206-783-7900

*temporary mailing address

return service requested

Join Us 11:00 AM Sundays
for Worship Service:

- On Facebook: [facebook.com/ourredeemers](https://www.facebook.com/ourredeemers)
- By Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>
- By Phone. Call 1 206 337 9723; enter 822 691 346 when prompted

Ash Wednesday 7 PM Worship

February 17
on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)

Special Music.
Confession.
Absolution.



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.