

FEBRUARY 2022



TheVisitor

Celebrate the Ministry of

**Pastor
Kathy Hawks**

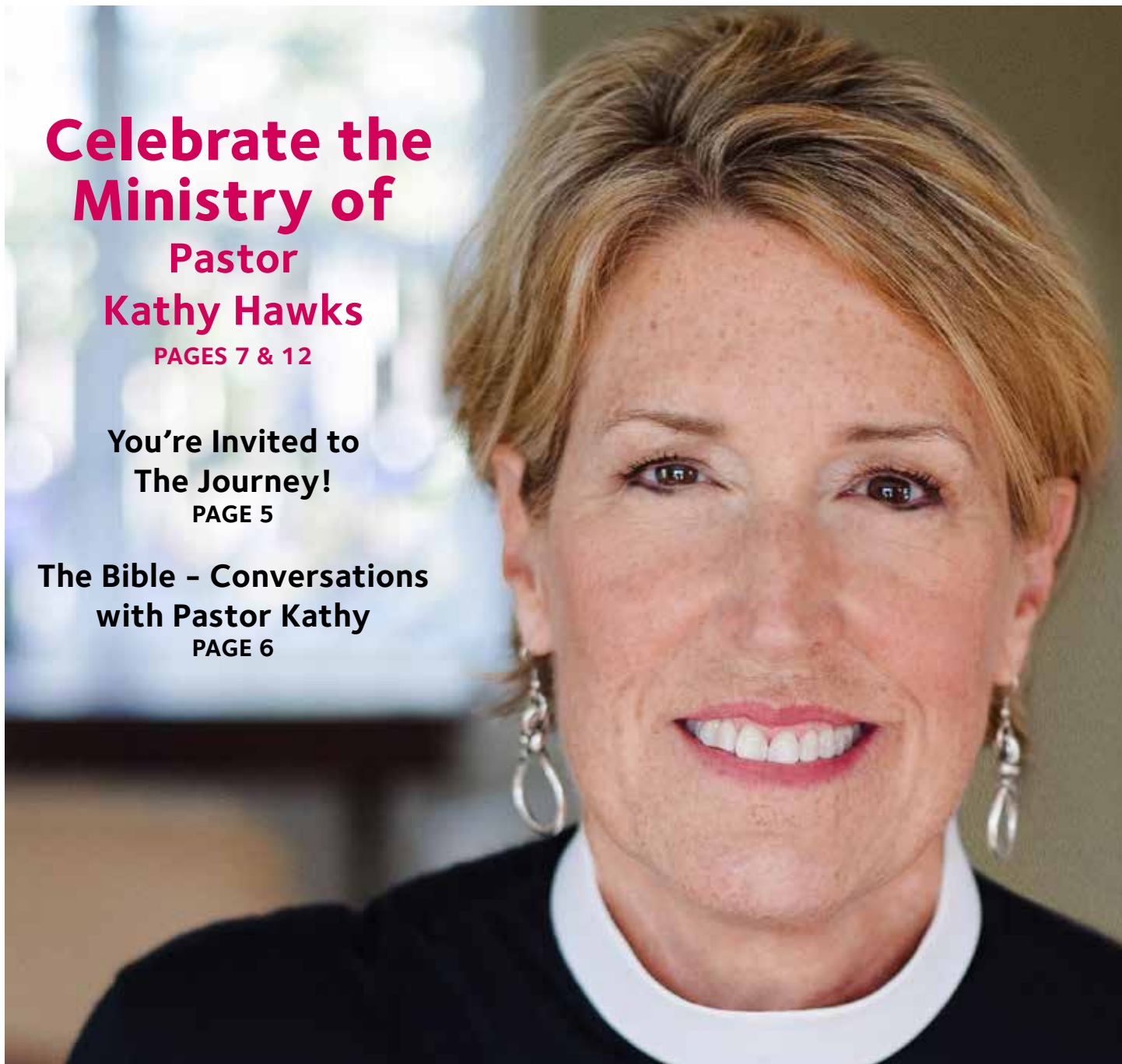
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with Pastor Kathy**

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A Community in the Model of Christ

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends of Our Redeemer's,

I find myself quite reflective right now. I know words will be inadequate, but I wouldn't be able to retire without TRYING to thank you for all you and God have blessed me with over the past twenty-one years (in 500 words!).

First, of course, **thank you for your trust.** Our Redeemer's called your first non-Scandinavian, vision-oriented (vs. the more managerial make-up of the congregation) woman pastor as a prayerful act of trust in the Spirit's power to bring needed changes for growth and strength.

Together, we have leaned into the vision God called Our Redeemer's to during the preceding interim - which was crystallized into the vision statement still guiding us like a compass. **I'm in awe of how you consistently and thoughtfully choose to act on what you believe God is calling you to do, even when it involves uncertainty and risk.** I am aware of how HARD so many of you have worked recently and over these years, to make God's vision a reality. This is SO rare, friends! And I have never taken it for granted. I hope, and trust, you will continue in this deep, challenging faithfulness.

Thank you for your trust in inviting me to share important times in your lives - births, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, dying and deaths. And, also, your joys, your victories, your struggles, your insights, your questions, your visions, your frustrations, your pain, your disappointments, your God moments, your faith. You've invited me into your homes, into hospital rooms, work places, bedsides, jails, courtrooms, and to the graveside. Again, I can only be in humble awe at such privilege. These are not just memories for me; they are part of me. I will continue to carry them with me always.

Thank you for extending grace to Our Redeemer's and me over these years. Pastoring and leading together in our ever-evolving times, stretching from 9/11 through the Great Recession, the exposing of systemic racial injustice, political polarization and the explosion

of social media, added to the remoteness, isolation, anxiety and separation of this doggone pandemic... WELL! It's been challenging for us all. Seeking to be a community "for the life of the world" has called us to be continuously attentive and adaptable to how to share God's hope and grace beyond ourselves.

Yet, **I see Our Redeemer's as an oasis of grace** - where mistakes and failures are not fatal, but just part of who we all are, and absolutely essential to persisting in faithful ministry in times of uncharted change. I know I, for one, have made plenty of mistakes along the way. I am so keenly aware of times I have let you down, or failed to be as present as I want to be. But you have accepted my humanness, and blessed my humanity - personally and pastorally. What an incredible gift! (Note: If you have something unresolved with me, let's talk before I depart.)

I will miss you, Our Redeemer's - individually and as my community. These Sundays, even as sparse as our attendance is, I look out, watching you care for and welcome one another, observing you young and old, hearing your muffled laughter and singing; I see your eyes closed in prayer, and I feel so powerfully the goodness and promise God stirs up in you. I will most certainly carry you with me in prayer, memory and hope to see how God's goodness, grace and truth unfold in your next chapter.

On the night of my ordination, I sat on the floor of my empty seminary apartment, crying tears of joy, and the words came to me, "*I am the handmaid of the LORD. Let it be to me as you have said.*" These days, the tears of joy are coming again, accompanied by the words, "*Surely, the LORD is in this place.*" *



Thanks be to God!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katharine H. Hawks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Kathy Hawks

*Luke 1:38; Genesis 28:16

This Month at Our Redeemer's

February 1, Tuesday	7 PM - Executive Team 7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates
February 2, Wednesday	Staff Goal Development Day - Staff Unavailable 10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study Zoom 4 PM - Centering Prayer 8 PM - The Bible: A Conversation w/ Pastor Kathy Zoom
February 3, Thursday	4 PM - Staff Meeting 7 PM - Informal Ensemble
February 5, Saturday	9 AM - Liturgical Arts Team
February 6, Sunday	9 AM - Informal Worship 10 AM - Sprouts Class Zoom 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation Library 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship 12:30 PM - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Zoom 1 PM - Sacred Storytelling - Social Justice Focus Zoom
February 7, Monday	7 PM - Faith Formation Team
February 9, Wednesday	10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study Zoom 1 PM - Staff Meeting 4 PM - Centering Prayer
February 10, Thursday	3 PM - Community Engagement Task Force 7 PM - Informal Ensemble
February 13, Sunday	9 AM - Informal Worship 10 AM - Sprouts Class Zoom 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation Library 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship 1 PM - Sacred Storytelling - Social Justice Focus Zoom 4 PM - Madonna's Book Group Location TBD
February 15, Tuesday	7 PM - Council Meeting 7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates
February 16, Wednesday	10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study Zoom 1 PM - Staff Meeting 4 PM - Centering Prayer 8 PM - The Bible: A Conversation w/ Pastor Kathy Zoom
February 17, Thursday	7 PM - Informal Ensemble Rehearsal
February 20, Sunday	9 AM - Informal Worship 10 AM - Sprouts Class Zoom 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
February 22, Tuesday	7 PM - Theology on Tap Reuben's Brews
February 23, Wednesday	10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study Zoom 1 PM - Staff Meeting 4 PM - Centering Prayer
February 24, Thursday	3 PM - Community Engagement Task Force
February 26, Saturday	4-8 PM - CELEBRATION OF PASTOR KATHY In-Person
February 27, Sunday	10 AM - FESTIVAL WORSHIP AND GODSPEED FOR PASTOR KATHY HAWKS

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5 FAITH FORMATION

7 COMMUNITY

10 SOCIAL JUSTICE

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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.





Worship and Music

Lent 2022: “Created for Community”

by Pastor Gretchen Mertes

The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together “with the whole church.” It goes on to state that “we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.” Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of “repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love”. **Lent is also a time for deepening of community.**

As Karen Lee and I were preparing for Lent this year, she noted this: we are in a state of transition at church, losing our lead pastor of 20+ years, in the third year of a pandemic, and the more connected we are to each other, the more connected we are to God.

Maybe in this season of Lent, we can feel connected when the world is saying that we can’t be connected.

In a time when we are worn down and saddened by separation, having to constantly re-frame, re-start, and dump all our plans, it is vital to our faith and our mental health to find ways to connect and create and remind ourselves that we are truly not alone. God is with us in the lowest places.

In our culture, we tend to isolate our faith life from the rest of our life, and we find that our greater community is different from our “church community.” This Lent, we can bring those two realities together through prayer, reflection, repentance, and practice. **What a gift both for those inside and outside our wonderful church community.**

Peace to you in your Lenten journey, and may we find that we are indeed “Created for Community.”



Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, March 2, 7 PM

We will gather at 7 PM in the sanctuary to receive ashes on our heads, confess our brokenness, and begin our Lenten journey. This annual reminder of our mortality gives us the humility to remember that we are dust, and it is by the grace of God that we have breath and life. In this moving service, through word, song and prayer, we will draw close to God, who is our source of life and hope. Holy Communion will be celebrated as well, and we leave the sanctuary in silence.

Ashes to Go

Wednesday, March 2, 7-9 AM & 4-6 PM |
Corner of NW 85th & 25th NE

Pastor Gretchen will be on the corner of 85th and 25th by our parking lot, offering ashes and blessings from 7 – 9 AM and 4 – 6 PM on Ash Wednesday. Many in our community don’t have a church home, don’t feel safe for health reasons, have small children at home in the evenings, or work long hours and can’t attend our regular service. This is a chance to share the grace of our community with folks who just happen to be walking by. Make sure you come by and say hello!



Faith Formation

You Are Invited to The Journey

Ask any member of this congregation what the most formative part of their involvement at Our Redeemer's was, and first they'll tell you that they felt welcomed. The next thing they'll say is, "I loved being part of The Journey." Many folks have participated more than once!

For the five Sundays of Lent, from 4–6 PM, we are all invited to gather to share teaching, scripture, story, and serious snacks. Each week, we focus on a different area of ministry, theology, and growth as people of faith.

From the basics of how Lutherans interpret scripture and why we worship the way we do, to an introspective look at our individual faith stories, this experience presents an opportunity to explore this community from the ground up. Representative people from the many different areas of ministry in our congregation will come share what they do with us, how they do it, and how you could be a part of it.

Over the course of five weeks, using grace as our anchor, we will delve into the following emphases:

Week 1: God's Grace: Keeping the main thing the main thing

Week 2: Grace in the Flesh: Jesus Christ

Week 3: Grace Made Sensory: Baptism & Communion

Week 4: God's Grace is a Living Word: The Bible

Week 5: Living in Grace: Faith Practices - Generosity, Worship, Community

At the end of the Journey, we extend an invitation to those who are not yet members of Our Redeemer's to join us at the Sunrise Service on Easter morning at Carkeek Park.



**4 PM SUNDAYS
MARCH 6 - APRIL 3**

Regardless of whether you join or not, the Journey is a wonderful way to become more fully involved in this church family. No strings attached.

Especially for those who are new, the Journey is an excellent place to bring your questions, to find your people, to explore how faith might ground you, and how God might call you into action.

To register to participate, contact Mandy Neill, our welcome minister, at welcome@ourredeemers.net.



Faith Formation



The Bible: A Conversation about Concerns & Explorations with Pastor Kathy Hawks Wednesdays, February 2 & 16, 8 PM | Zoom

Does a recent email from a member of Our Redeemer's' community resonate with you?

I am about halfway through the Old Testament. I'm plugging away, and it's taking a while. As I go along I have found some problematic passages (one in particular, encouraging genocide against pagans), and my attitude toward the Bible has changed. I now view it as a highly problematic text.

It has dawned on me that if one takes the text of the Bible at face value, it is much easier to walk away believing in conservative, patriarchal, colonial, heteronormative values, and selective salvation, and the Devil, and Hell, than it is to believe what I believe, or what I think you believe. There is, in fact, a massive divide between the Bible's face-value, overarching message as I read it, and anything I would find worth associating myself with.

But I love what I hear in the sermons at Our Redeemer's. And I feel Christ come to life in me during our services. And I trust that you and Pastor Gretchen have well-informed perspectives on all things Biblical, and on Jesus' teachings...[But] I am finding my association with the text of the Bible to be more and more problematic. I'm not sure how to process this space I find myself in. So, I am seeking your guidance on this matter. I hope you can help me make sense with where I am. Thank you so much!

Ah, yes! Any of us who take the Bible seriously, but not literally, sooner or later find ourselves agreeing with most or all of the above, right?

While I don't have all the answers by a long stretch, I believe we can learn so much about how to approach the Bible, and, with integrity, discover what is life-giving without having to claim what is or seems to be so offensive and violent. Join us!

Join In!

If you want to be part of this conversation, join us on two Wednesday, February 2 and 16 at 8PM on Zoom ([link](#)), or contact Pastor Kathy to get the Zoom information (kathyh@ourredeemers.net).

Sacred Storytelling Continues!

Sundays, February 6, 13 & 20; 10:10AM | Fellowship Hall

How can we of Our Redeemer's stay connected during these disconnected times? How can we strengthen one another's faith during these fluctuating and dispiriting times?

Last November we began an adult forum series that helped us do both: we shared our personal spiritual journeys with one another (similar to what we do in the Journey new member process). Connecting and reconnecting has been an uplifting joy! The class has been a new adventure in building back our beloved community and knowing one another much better.

On February 6 & 20, at 10:10AM, we will continue our class. Two people each Sunday will tell us about their faith journey. Does it might seem like a tall order to do so, as finding words for these deep stories is something to ponder? Then know, we will provide prompts and suggestions about where you might begin. It will be all yours to tell and a joy for others to hear. If you'd be willing to sign up for one of these sessions, please let Sally Parker-Henderson, wpainter26@yahoo.com, know. Join us to explore together our deep spiritual selves.

- Pastor Kathy, Sally Parker-Henderson, Dana Wright



How it Works:

Each participant will have 15 minutes to share their story. No questions will be asked afterward, and stories will remain within the room and not shared outside of class as these stories are personal and sacred.



Community

A Celebration of Ministry - Pastor Kathy Hawks

Join in a time of celebration to honor, thank and recognize **Pastor Kathy Hawks** for her 20+ years of leading, loving, and growing this congregation. She has done that with her faith, mind, heart and soul.

Saturday, February 26, 4-8 PM will be a time of fun, laughter, family, fellowship and recognition for our pastor. There will be music, dinner, activities for the kids and a program at 4 PM.

On Sunday, February 27 we will have a Festival Worship and Godspeed Blessing at 10 AM as Pastor Kathy looks toward new horizons to explore.

Photographs, notes of encouragement, and monetary donations toward a congregational gift may be sent.

- Photographs - email to communications@ourredeemers.net
- Cards - mail to the church, attn. Karie Stearns
- A congregational gift of travel for Pastor Kathy - mail monetary gifts to the church attn. Karie Stearns. Please denote what it's for.
- You can also give online through our website's "Giving" tab (link).

Contact Parish Administrator Karie Stearns (administrator@ourredeemers.net or call her at 206-783-7901) with any questions about giving.





Community

Centering Prayer
 Wednesdays | 4 PM
 Our Redeemer's Sanctuary
 2400 NW 85th Street | Seattle

When was the last time you felt deeply peaceful?

Special Congregational Meeting To Approve Funding for Urgent Sewer Repairs

February 6, 12:30 PM | Zoom

Just beyond the scope of our renovation, and the sewer scope done for our renovation, are 77 year old sewer pipes which we discovered in December are crumbling and have root balls, and not working. Stop-gap repairs have been made, but serious work to our sewer line is necessary in order to avoid further problems. We have received 3 bids, and the Council moves that up to \$50,000 be allocated for this work. The Vision-Aligned Building Team recommended these repairs be done.

We will meet on Zoom. We expect this VERY important meeting to be brief. Thank you for your attendance!

Join the Team at Our Redeemer's!

Our congregation is hiring a part-time Volunteer Coordinator at 16 hours a week with flexible hours. [LINK](#) to the job description.

Caring Community Team

The Caring Community Team will have their next meeting on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 10:30 AM. Please contact Linda Carbone for more information or if you want to take part (lindac19@comcast.net).



The baptism of Viktoria Grigsby was celebrated at Our Redeemer's in January.

We give God thanks for the life of Orville Anderson - December 17, 2021 (b. March 7, 1926). We pray that God will bring comfort to those who grieve.

Celebrating February Birthdays

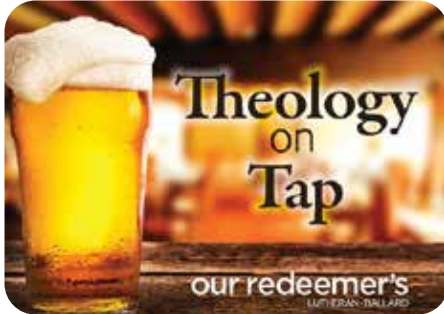
- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Judy Carrier | 7 Gary Schulze | 13 Earl Ecklund III | 24 Sonja Vonheim-Condon |
| 4 Tamara Anderson | 8 Cara Kiggins | 16 Eric Johnson | 26 Barb Dougherty |
| 4 Michael Hammett | 8 David Schoolcraft | 20 Karen Carlson | 28 Kristine Leander |
| 5 Thea Fidis | 9 Carleigh Bedell | 20 Karen Lee | 29 Owen Watkins |
| 5 Henry Fowler | 9 Sydney Record | 20 Jessica Parrott | |
| 6 Harold Alley | 11 Miguel Maier | 21 Karina Hlastala | |
| 6 Raleigh Somm | 12 Guy Michaelsen | 22 Weller Mertes | |



Community

Theology on Tap

February 22, 7 PM | Reuben's Brews, 5010 14th Ave NW, Ballard



Our 2/22/22 topic: **"Lent. Why Bother?"** What's the best practice? What's ridiculous? Traditions? Join in the discussion!

Madonna's Book Group

Madonna's Book Group will meet on Sunday, February 13, 4 PM (location TBD). The books to be read and discussed are **THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND** by William Kamkwamba and **THE SCENT KEEPER** by Erica Bauermeister. All are welcome to join in! Contact Lynne for more information: buckomcneill@yahoo.com.

The Festival and Auction Need You!

7 PM, Saturday, April 30 | Fellowship Hall

Join us for Our Redeemer's annual Auction and Party Saturday on April 30th! We have extra time this year to plan, anticipate the fun that we'll have, and procure auction items! Get involved!

- Make a donation! We love to have "relational donations". What does that mean? Experiences, lessons, cooking & baking, boat rides, vacation times – anything interactive is the best! Consider throwing in a week at your vacation house, a boat cruise, a behind-the-scenes tour at your favorite place. Here's an online link to submit your donation: <https://rb.gy/r5kcwj>
- Volunteer! A party like this takes a lot of helping hands. You can help with procurement, keep track of bids on the day of the event, event set up, etc.
- Think of friends you might want to invite. This is a great event to introduce people to your church.

Let Pastor Gretchen know if you have questions and/or are able to help (pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net).



Expanding Our Welcome to Our Community

Our Redeemer's is an active and growing community of faith. As part of our shared vision of local outreach, our worship space and meeting rooms are available for public use.

Groups like the preschool co-op, Scouts, AA groups, and the Suzuki Institute of Seattle, as well as a number of other community groups, regularly use our newly renovated spaces. **If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about holding an event or group at Our Redeemer's, please contact Karie Stearns** for fees and availability (administrator@ourredeemers.net).

Marking the Moment: Love, Life and Loss

Our lives are made up of unique and unforgettable days -days of life, love and loss. Gathering together with members of our community, we mark these powerful moments through the rituals of music, scripture, celebration and, sometimes, through mourning and remembrance. Whether it's baptism, two people entering marriage or a life remembered, by illuminating these moments we acknowledge and deepen their meaning for our lives and our faith. Contact Pastor Gretchen if you have questions about holding an event at Our Redeemer's.



In December, Sustainable Ballard used the Fellowship Hall to hold their annual holiday Barter Fair.



Social Justice

Sacred Storytelling – Social Justice Focus via Zoom Open Questions Congregational Forums

Sundays, February 6 & 13, 1:00 PM | [Zoom](#) or Phone Call: +1 (206) 337-9723

In February, everyone is invited to storytelling about our social justice experiences on Zoom at 1:00 PM! We will have simple prompts that will enable all of us to be part of reflecting on the past (February 6) and imagining the future (February 13). We want to hear from as many people as possible about this important part of our faith and faith witness! Please join us for these Council-sponsored events!

Advocate for Those Who are Vulnerable in the 60-day Washington Legislative Session

Two communities who experience danger and unwanted vulnerability need our advocacy. Learn here how to speak up for them and how to do it during the Washington State legislative session. Thank you for showing your care!

1. Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people go missing and are murdered at rates higher than any other ethnic group in the United States. In Washington State, indigenous women are murdered at four times the rate of white women (Urban Indian Health Institute in Seattle). **Proposed House Bill 1725 would activate the alert system on message signs, in highway advisory radio messages, and through press releases when Indigenous people disappear.** This will be the first alert system specifically for missing and murdered Indigenous women and people in the country.

Sample message: *Please support HB 1725 to help address the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women and people in Washington State! As Rep. Lekanoff has said, "The unheard screams of missing and murdered people will be heard across Washington state with the implementation of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Alert System."*

2. **House Bill 1883 would establish a lifeline for youth and young adults who have personal experience in public systems of care** – such as foster care, the juvenile justice system, inpatient behavioral health treatment, and those at risk of entering such systems. The lifeline would help beneficiaries resolve any issue that could escalate into crisis, from accessing medical records and securing housing, to learning how to change a flat tire or getting connected to a mentor. It is intended not to just offer resources and referrals but to ensure that services are actually implemented and the young person gets what they need.



Sample message: *Please vote for HB 1883 and support our youth and young adults who have experienced uncertainty and emotional stress in navigating governmental systems of care. As a person of faith, I care about the well-being of our next generation, many of whom are experiencing homelessness. Let's make sure they get the help and skills they need to fully become the whole, thriving and exceptional people we know they are!*

Here's how: You can email your legislators directly using the formula: "first name.last name@leg.wa.gov". For example, Reuven.Carlyle@leg.wa.gov. Or you can call the legislative hotline on weekdays and leave a message for all three representatives at once. The receptionists are very warm and helpful: 1.800.562.6000

You can find out who your state legislators are at this link: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder> and putting in your address. Many members of Our Redeemer's live in State district 32 or 36.



Social Justice



Niels Running helped load boxes and direct traffic on during November's LWR Ingathering.

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering a Success

Lutheran World Relief returned to Our Redeemer's for an Ingathering last November. Ninety churches from Western Washington (north of Chehalis) and one in Alaska brought the following:

- 5,101 Quilts
- 4,963 School Kits
- 1,610 Personal Care Kits
- 911 Baby Care Kits
- 218 Fabric Kits

These numbers are 85-90% of pre-Covid-Fall Ingatherings. Our containers arrived at the Maryland warehouse on November 13th. Many, many thanks to all who helped make the items, bought materials or supplies, or paid for shipping. And thanks in particular to 30 volunteers who loaded the 1,500 boxes and directed traffic, especially Eric and Niels Running!



Advocating for Protecting Voting Rights

Our church sent 25 letters and a petition to Senators Cantwell and Murray expressing appreciation for their support of voting rights legislation and urging their continued creativity and advocacy to get a bill passed that will help preserve our democracy. Letters were scanned and emailed to the senators on MLK Jr. Day (until Elizabeth's scanner gave out), and the full packet of letters and petition was posted to each Senator that week. While the Senate ultimately did not succeed in protecting voting rights, it is part of our prophetic calling to speak up in this way for those who are marginalized in our elections process. Thank you Our Redeemer's!



Solar Panels for our Roof? New Heat Pump?

You're invited to help form a team to explore addressing climate change very locally: through our church building! We're looking at placing solar panels on our church roof, and perhaps even changing the source of our indoor climate conditioning. This is a short-term opportunity for you to get involved in research, interviewing contractors, and developing a proposal for the Church Council. Please contact Elizabeth if interested (outreach@ourredeemers.net).



Jean and Her Family Say "Thank You!"

Jean is an Our Redeemer's neighbor who requested help from our Giving Tree this past Christmas. She and her family were in particular need of financial assistance to pay their water bill. Pastors Kathy and Gretchen provided \$500 toward this bill from the Ministers' Discretionary Fund. Inspired by this gift, the Seattle Public Utilities matched this donation. Jean has conveyed her deep gratitude to Our Redeemer's for our generosity in alleviating not only much of their utility debt, but the stress that went along with it.



2400 NW 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98117

www.ourredeemers.net
206-783-7900

return service requested

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM - Informal

11 AM - Traditional

In-Person or

Online:

Facebook:

facebook.com ourredeemers and

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

CENTERING PRAYER

4 PM - Wednesdays

In-Person

Celebrate Pastor Kathy Hawks' Ministry

Saturday, February 26, 4–8 PM

Celebrate with Pastor Kathy in-person or online. A program honoring her ministry will be at 4 PM, followed by dinner, music, laughter, and fun activities for families and kids. RSVP if you plan to attend in person. (Watch your mail for an invitation.)

Sunday, February 27

Join us for a special service of Festival Worship and Godspeed at 10 AM to bless Pastor Kathy as she looks toward new horizons to explore.

All Covid protocols will be followed.



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