

FEBRUARY 2025



TheVisitor



From Epiphany to Lent

INSIDE

A Statement
on Immigration

Lent Devotions

"Faith Formation:
A Foundation for Justice"

Register for
Vacation Bible School

A Community in the Model of Christ

From the Bishop...

*"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
Matthew 25:35*

With the new administration's executive orders, I am gravely concerned about the anti-immigrant policies affecting our neighbors and faith communities. Please hold in prayer those whose lives are being upended and threatened. In addition to the items in this message, we will continue to share information and opportunities for learning and advocacy as we receive them.

In Christ's Love,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

See page 8 for additional information and calls for action.



**Region 1 of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

January 23, 2025

A Statement on Immigration

As Lutherans, we are called to live out the teachings of Jesus Christ, who welcomed strangers and emphasized love, mercy, and justice for all people. We believe that every human being, regardless of their country of origin or legal status, is created in the image of God and has inherent dignity and worth. This foundational truth compels us to approach the issue of immigration with compassion and a commitment to the common good.

Scripture repeatedly instructs us to love our neighbor and show the stranger hospitality. God commands the people of Israel, "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself" (Leviticus 19:34). Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) shows us that caring for people in need is central to who we are as Christians. The parable also challenges us to acknowledge the goodness in all people because the "foreigner" in the story is the one who acts in the most Christlike way. In light of these teachings, we advocate for an immigration policy that reflects Christ's love, recognizing that all people deserve respect and protection.

The Lutheran tradition emphasizes both mercy and justice. Justice requires everyone, including immigrants, to be treated fairly and equitably. While upholding the rule of law is important, it must not be done in ways that dehumanize or exploit vulnerable people. We are especially concerned about the possibility that places of worship, hospitals, and schools could be the target of deportation raids. A policy that allowed such raids would increase the suffering not only of undocumented people but also of many people who would fear being unjustly targeted and thus avoid those places. Denying people the opportunity to attend worship, be educated, or receive medical treatment violates individuals' fundamental rights. We urge those in government and law enforcement who are responsible for the detention or deportation of undocumented persons to consider how their actions might be seen in the eyes of God.

We are all members of the same human family. Therefore, we approach immigration not merely as a political or legal issue but as a matter of human solidarity. The health and prosperity of the United States are intertwined with the contributions and lives of immigrants. Immigrants bring diverse gifts and play an essential role in our communities and economies. Our immigration policies should reflect a commitment to the welfare of all, especially the most vulnerable.

As people who have received God's mercy and grace, we are called to extend that same mercy and grace to others. This means offering opportunities for new beginnings, particularly for those already present in the United States without legal documentation. A just immigration policy would provide pathways to citizenship for those who have lived in the U.S. for years, contributing to the country and integrating into our communities. It should also guarantee protection for those fleeing violence or persecution, ensure that immigrant families remain united, and make sure that children are not punished for their parents' actions.

We are called, as individuals and as a society, to remember that the immigrants among us are not intruders or enemies but bearers of the image of God, deserving of our care, respect, and advocacy.

The Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee, Bishop, Northwest Washington Synod
The Rev. Richard Jaech, Bishop, Southwestern Washington Synod
The Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling, Bishop, Montana Synod
The Rev. Laurie Larson Caesar, Bishop, Oregon Synod
The Rev. Dr. Meggan Manlove, Bishop, Northwest Intermountain Synod
The Rev. Timothy Oslovich, Bishop, Alaska Synod

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

2 FROM THE PASTOR

4 LIVING GENEROUSLY

5 WORSHIP & MUSIC

6 FAITH FORMATION

8 FAITH IN ACTION

9 COMMUNITY

OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Thomas Voelp, Pastor
pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net
(206) 783-7900 ext. 2
- Gian Foddai, Informal Worship & Music Director
gianfranco@ourredeemers.net
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director
karen@ourredeemers.net
- Debbie Lematta, Communications Coordinator
communications@ourredeemers.net
- Lake Neill, Service Coordinator
neilllake13@gmail.com
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator
administrator@ourredeemers.net

Office Phone: (206) 783-7900

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10am-3pm

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.



Cover photo: Braxton Apana, Unsplash

What's Happening in February

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| February 1, Saturday | 9 AM - Liturgical Arts Team |
| February 2, Sunday | 9 AM - Informal Worship 9 AM - Sprouts In-Person Downstairs 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation Library 11 AM - Traditional Worship |
| February 3, Monday | 5 PM - Church Ladies Beer Night Old Stove Gardens |
| February 4, Tuesday | 7 PM - Executive Team Meeting |
| February 5, Wednesday | 5 PM - B.A.T. Meeting 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal |
| February 6, Thursday | 7 PM - Informal Worship Band Rehearsal |
| February 8, Saturday | 5 - 8 PM - FUNDRAISING AUCTION: "MARDI GRAS" |
| February 9, Sunday | 9 AM - Informal Worship 9 AM - Sprouts In-Person Downstairs 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation Library 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship |
| February 11, Tuesday | 7 PM - Church Council Meeting |
| February 12, Wednesday | 11 AM - Staff Meeting 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal |
| February 13, Thursday | 7 PM - Informal Worship Band Rehearsal |
| February 16, Sunday | 9 AM - Informal Worship 9 AM - Sprouts In-Person Downstairs 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes Downstairs 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship 2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner Ballard First Lutheran 3 PM - Madonna's Book Group Our Redeemer's |
| February 17, Monday | President's Day Holiday - Church Office Closed |
| February 19, Wednesday | 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal |
| February 20, Thursday | 5 PM - All Staff Meeting 7 PM - Informal Worship Band Rehearsal |
| February 23, Sunday | 9 AM - Informal Worship 9 AM - Sprouts In-Person Downstairs 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes Downstairs 10 AM - Adult Forum: "Called as One" Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship |
| February 24, Monday | 10 AM - Monthly Volunteer Grounds Crew |
| February 26, Wednesday | 11 AM - Staff Meeting 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal |
| February 27, Thursday | 7 PM - Informal Worship Band Rehearsal |



Living Generously

Our Redeemer's Mission Budget

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

July – December (50% thru FY)

| Income | 2024-2025 Approved Budget | Income Thru 12.31.24 | % of Budget Year to Date | Over (Under) Budget Year to Date |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Envelope & Loose Offerings | 515,075 | 237,448 | 47% | (20,089) |
| Church Use | 84,375 | 42,026 | 49.8% | (161) |
| Fundraising (Auction)* | 26,000 | 70 | 0.3% | (12,930) |
| Interest | 500 | 373 | 74.5% | 123 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 625,950 | 279,917 | 44.7% | (33,058) |

| Expenses | 2024-2025 Approved Budget | Expenses Thru 12.31.24 | % of Budget | Over (Under) Budget Year to Date |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--|
| Social Justice/Outreach | 52,827 | 25,745 | 48.7% | (669) |
| Pastoral Staff | 122,033 | 56,078 | 46.0% | (4,938) |
| Worship & Music | 67,609 | 30,118 | 44.5% | (3,687) |
| Fellowship & Caring | 20,727 | 4,503 | 21.7% | (5,860) |
| Faith Formation | 25,904 | 5,588 | 21.6% | (7,364) |
| Stewardship | 8,418 | 4,178 | 49.6% | (31) |
| Communications | 49,985 | 24,529 | 49.1% | (463) |
| Facilities | 168,944 | 96,913 | 57.4% | 12,441 |
| Administration | 166,169 | 56,839 | 34.2% | (26,246) |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 682,616 | 304,492 | 44.6% | (36,816) |
| NET INCOME (Loss) | (56,666) | (24,574) | | 3,759 |

Each month Our Redeemer's publishes a Mission Budget report to keep congregants informed about the current financial health of the church.

If you have questions or concerns about Our Redeemer's financial status, contact Karie Stearns, administrator@ourredeemers.net.



Income: Our Redeemer's income, halfway through the fiscal year, is \$279,917. This is \$33,000 less than budgeted. Regular giving is \$20,000 less than budgeted for at this point in the fiscal year, however, it is slightly more than it was at this same time last year. The auction has yet to happen which skews the income to budget comparison.

Expenses: We have spent \$304,000 which is below budget by \$36,000. The greatest contributor to spending less than budgeted comes from the administration category, as we paused the hiring of the volunteer coordinator/admin assistant until income and expenses were more closely aligned.

Overall: We have spent \$26,000 more than we have brought in for the fiscal year. This does include \$47,000 in expenses for the water leak, all of which occurred at the beginning of the FY. The Auction will also increase our income, which will bring income even closer to alignment with expenses.

For questions/concerns, to set up giving, or to change your giving, please contact Administrator, Karie Stearns at administrator@ourredeemers.net. Thank you for your support!

Celebrating February Birthdays!

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 4 Tamara Anderson | 9 Carleigh Bedell | 20 Karen Lee |
| 4 Michael Hammett | 9 Sydney Record | 21 Karina Hlastala |
| 5 Henry Fowler | 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 David Schoolcraft | 20 Karen Carlson | |



Worship and Music

Join the Altar Task Force

by Pastor Thomas



Every week, we focus on God's table of forgiveness and mercy.

We meet God in bread and wine by sharing Scripture, offering peace, and presenting our gifts to support the ministry of Christ's church. We ask God to bless these offerings for service at God's table. We worship in a space shaped by the seasons and the Spirit, building our gatherings around the places where God's Word promises to be present: the place of reading and proclamation, the place of our entry into new life in Christ, and the place where we encounter God's presence in the sharing of holy food for the journey.

Throughout history, the church has carefully and meaningfully designed furnishings to teach and proclaim the gospel through the Word and Sacraments. I've seen paschal candle stands emblazoned with the fire of the Spirit, lamps shaped like lighthouses, a binnacle used as an ambo, and pulpits adorned with angels and saints praising God. Baptismal fonts take many

forms, from coffins to a dramatically parted Red Sea, with heavenly waters flowing into the river of life and out into the world. These pieces reflect a community's understanding of the gospel and their perspective on God's story for their time and place. Sometimes, functionality takes precedence over form.

As we complete the work of the Vision Aligned Building capital campaign (VAB) church renovation, we now seek meaningful and beautiful designs for an altar and, if possible, a font and lectern. **Council and the Liturgical Arts Team invite those interested to join a task force to find these designs.** Please email [Pastor Thomas](#) or [Marie Lutequist](#) by February 10 to join, so the council can confirm members. We raised funding for this purpose during the remodel campaign. Please prayerfully consider joining this ministry!

Share Your Lenten Daily Devotions

As we approach the Lenten season, we have a special opportunity to pause and devote time to reflect together. **From Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday (excluding Sundays in Lent) we invite you to share daily devotions.** Scriptures will be selected from the lectionary to anchor and inspire writing and reflection.

Did you know Sundays during Lent don't count among the 40 days? That is why we call them Sundays in Lent, not Sundays of Lent. (That means, Sundays are fasting "cheat" days!) And, in our tradition the "triduum" (3 days), comprised of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, are considered part of the 40 days of Lent.

Devotions will be sent out via email to those on our Devotions mailing list each evening, March 4 - April 18. Evening devotions look toward the following date.

We need your submissions about two weeks prior to release date. For example, for devotions for March 5 - 8, sign up and submit by February 19.

A devotions sign up sheet will be available on Sundays and during office hours, and sign ups online will be posted on Sign Up Genius. Please sign up for as many days as you feel stirred to contribute!

Please share your spiritual gifts with our community! For more information and to submit devotions, contact Pastor Thomas pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net. **Sign up to receive devotions** by contacting Communications Coordinator, Debbie Lematta, communications@ourredeemers.net.





Faith Formation



Adult Forums in February

Sundays, 10 AM | Fellowship Hall

Adult Sunday forums continue to explore our church identity and call in relation to the needs of our church and community this month. Through Scripture study, embodied practices, reflection, and shared discussions, we'll examine our gifts, talents, and experiences, shaping our community's role and living our call to be good neighbors. Guest speakers this month include:

- February 2 - Sally Parker Henderson presents on the "Many Names of God."
- February 9- Barbara Smith leads an all ages Embodied Church entitled, "What the Ocean and Outer Space Tell Us About God."

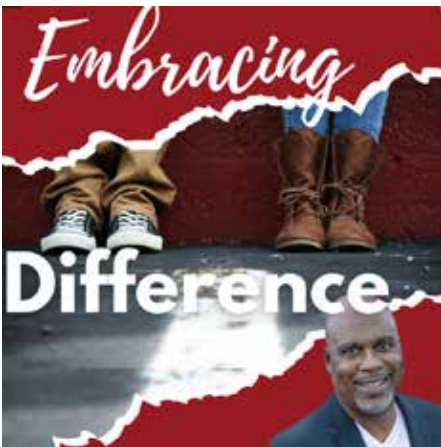
Email Pastor Thomas (pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net) or Mandy Niell (neillmandy@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



The Journey Begins This Fall

We continue our new practice of offering the Journey in the Fall, not the Spring. This allows us to celebrate membership in the Body of Christ and membership at Our Redeemer's during Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday, respectively. It also frees up opportunities during Lent to form and develop our Faith Formation engagement and activities!

If you are considering voting membership, or a refresher on Lutheran tradition and perspective, please contact Pastor Thomas. And to reaffirm, opportunities for baptism are available throughout the year!



Embracing Difference Retreat

Saturday, Feb 8th, 9am-3pm | Our Savior's Lutheran, Everett

This retreat will practically help us to listen to ourselves and others, and to learn how to connect to one another across differences. Guest presenter, Fred Oduyoye from Reachable Reconciliation Ministries (who presented in our Fall Faith in Public Life course), will lead us. Registration is free [HERE \(https://bit.ly/4fF3Mc4\)](https://bit.ly/4fF3Mc4) using promo code: LIVEBUNDLE2024



Learning Love: Lenten Journey with bell hooks

Thursday evenings, March 6-April 10, 7-8:30pm | online

This course is a continuation of the LIVE's Lenten "Gospel & Culture" series. In her book All About Love, bell hooks explores the transformative power of love through a commitment to personal growth, justice, and self-awareness. Come and deepen our calling to love as we explore her writing together. Registration is free (<https://rebrand.ly/s76b1pl>) using promo code: LIVEBUNDLE2024.



Faith Formation

Faith Formation: A Foundation for Justice

This is the first in a series I was asked to share examining our leadership's vision and approach to Faith Formation and Justice for Our Redeemer's. – Pastor Thomas

After the events of the past few weeks, I cannot imagine a greater prompt for our community to address our growth than the renewed fervor in government to obliterate the personhood of so many by the stroke of a pen. In the face of injustice, we may feel stunned to silence, as were those who Luke's gospel describes as standing and watching the crucifixion of Jesus. The sense of powerlessness is deliberate—the wearying of people in the hopes of capitulation and apathy and the intimidation even in the name of Jesus is intentional. Yet, we rise daily to meet a God who speaks truth to power and builds community in spite of forces to divide and isolate. And for our church, God, who reconciles all things in Christ, grows and builds community as we come to reconcile the truth of our life together and the life of our world, in light of Jesus.



We believe God forms us by grace through faith. It is not our own achievements that can bring justice to this world, but only the God who returns and homes with us, and in turn, turns us homeward bound. And this worldly home returned to God, is reconciled to God, where all are embraced and rejoiced over, as a child who was lost turns up and returns home. As a sheep that is returned to its flock.

Our Redeemer's sees beyond Christian education as classroom experience, rather it is Faith Formation. The ways we reflect on our mission, and our outreach, the ways we serve our call is formative; study is in activity and participation as much as it is being informed by reading and writing. Faith formation is our way of building our community and drawing on the unity of our call in baptism. It is our way of seeking redemption and justice. It is a way of embodying the reconciliation we have in Christ. We see it as grace-filled, and redemptive—we are spared from walking in darkness in light of the truth of our world and we are rescued from mindsets that trap us in habits of blame-laying and self-justifications.

We could feel lost at this time—whether it be a sense of lost identity, or discomfort in liminal and transitional space. We may feel lost for which direction and which priorities are calling us. But God finds us in community. Being a part of the community is not always comfortable. Transformation requires growth and growing pains are a sign of what is natural. **Faith formation is our priority, because God's gift of faith forms community in Christ, and reveals God's justice.**

We believe that by being “conformed by the renewing of (y)our minds” as Paul said is a way of life together. A community has one life together, but many lives. It faces conflict and challenge in the course of interactions. It seeks resolution that is lasting and healing that is unifying. Further, a community does not engage in justice work as outreach, but as an expression of the inner work and the justice we seek for ourselves; justice in light of the gospel is reconciliation. It is not charity or “acts of service”—it is self-giving love, for life. Justice is not justification of self, but reconciling work. Justice is a way of being in faith and a way of life—just as all are reconciled in Christ, so our life together takes seriously the injustice that limits, captures, and binds God's gift of life. But how are we to know the way?

By the God who justifies the one who has faith, we trust that Christ, found in community, is the way, the truth, and the light. We engage. We show up. We step into the light of truth and wrestle with the darkness that clouds our vision and threatens our life together. We grow as people of faith and community in Christ. We are present to learn and live together. We discuss, we build relationships and understanding. We listen for God's word to us, in our context. We examine our life together and how God's Word speaks to us as a community, and sense our call. We gather and we commune, and we serve. And not just on Sundays. We cannot be a full community if the community is not fully present. We cannot have life together if we live apart.

Faith formation is our belief that grounding in God's love and reconciliation with one another and with God in Christ produces the justice we seek. It prompts us to further justice. We are not in the business of building “little Christians” but God creates “little Christs” of each of us. If we mean to convey Christ in our life together, our foundation in faith is God's work, proclaimed in scripture and in the life of Christ among us. And for that, we believe that we all are being formed in the faith.



Faith in Action

(This is additional information regarding ELCA Region 1's *Statement for Immigration* on page 2.)

Region One Online Forum for Our Faith Communities Regarding Immigration

February 12, 6:30pm on Zoom



Interfaith Advocacy Day 2025 is February 20th, 9am-3pm in Olympia, WA. Learn more about this statewide, multi-faith partnership striving for just, compassionate, and sustainable communities through courageous advocacy and public good. Go to www.fanwa.org for more information and to register.

Considering the new Trump Administration directives limiting congregational rights to offer sanctuary for our immigrant neighbors, and our position as a faith community rooted in biblical admonitions to accompany the stranger, **we highly encourage you to participate in a Region 1 online forum discussing protections for churches, organizations and individuals and how we might know our rights and/or rise up to be sanctuaries for our most vulnerable.**

We are grateful to be joined by immigration experts, including leaders from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Lutheran Community Services NW. Please invite any other key leaders you know, of any denomination.

Registration required. Free. Please share this invitation.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/4gfl1zG>

Information and action steps from these partners:

Faith Action Network: Advocacy and Action Resources (<https://bit.ly/4jNq11B>)

Global Refuge: Sensitive Locations/Protected Areas and Immigration Enforcement Fact and Action Sheet: PDF (English) <https://bit.ly/4ONDxvQ>; PDF (Spanish) <https://bit.ly/4gjsm2v>

National Immigration Law Center: Fact Sheet (<https://bit.ly/40wUVDm>)

Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network: Your Rights with ICE PDF (Immigration & Customs Enforcement)



Help Out at Ballard Sunday Dinner—In Service to Our Neighbors

Every third Sunday, Ballard Sunday Dinner (BSD) partners with local churches at Ballard First Lutheran to serve a warm, nourishing meal to our neighbors in need. It's a simple act of kindness that can have a big impact, especially during the colder months.

Our next dinner is on February 16th, and we're looking for volunteers to lend a hand! No experience is necessary—our team will guide you every step of the way to ensure you feel comfortable and supported.

We'd love to have you join us in making a difference! Sign up here: <https://rb.gy/ea817>. Have questions? Reach out to Amy Borgmeyer at amy.borgmeyer@gmail.com. Thank you for helping us spread kindness in our community!

Lutheran World Relief: Spring Collection Underway!

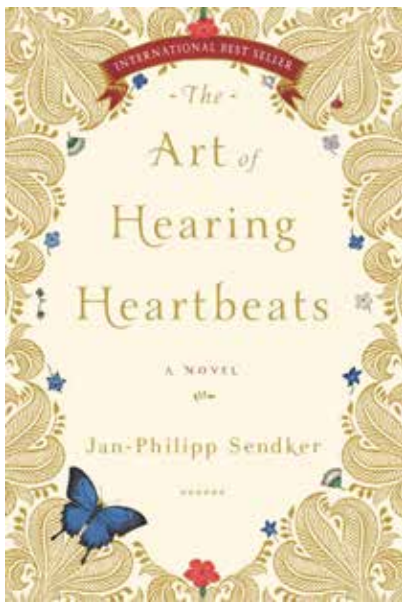
It's time to gather supplies for Lutheran World Relief's Personal Care Kits and Quilts! With the impact of California's fire season, the LWR warehouse is likely to be running low, and your contributions are needed more than ever! For Personal Care Kits, we're collecting the following (drop donations off at the church):

- **Lightweight, dark-colored bath towels** (Target recommended)
- **Sturdy toothbrushes**
- **4oz. bars of Ivory or other non-scented soap**
- **Sturdy nail clippers**
- **Large-size combs**

If you're interested in creating quilts for LWR, we'd love to have you join us! We've teamed up with the Queen Anne Lutheran quilting group to craft beautiful quilts for those in need. Everyone is welcome to participate! Please contact Sharon Longaker at (206) 393-2881 for more information.



Community



Madonna's Book Group

Sunday, February 16, 3 PM | Our Redeemer's

This month the Madonna's are meeting to discuss the book "The Heart of Hearing Heartbeats" by Jan Philipp Sandker. Contact Lynne at buckomcneill@yahoo.com with questions, or to get on the group's mailing list.

"A poignant and inspirational love story set in Burma, The Art of Hearing Heartbeats spans the decades between the 1950s and the present. When a successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears without a trace, neither his wife nor his daughter Julia has any idea where he might be...until they find a love letter he wrote many years ago, to a Burmese woman they have never heard of..."

Register for Holden Village 2025 July 13-20 | Holden Village

Our Redeemer's Week at Holden Village is set for July 13-20, 2025!
It's a special time for connection, reflection, and learning amidst
the beautiful surroundings of Holden Village.

Self-Registration is Required directly through Holden Village. Sign up promptly to secure your spot—our week could fill up quickly! Go to the Holden Village website to register: <https://www.holdenvillage.org>.

If you have any questions or need assistance, reach out to Tad Anderson: tadand99@gmail.com (206-445-5052), or Cindy Anderson: cindyrowanderson@gmail.com (206-351-4098). We can't wait to see you there!



Community



Breaking Bread Together March Dinners - Sign Up to Host or Attend

Sunday, March 9, 6 PM | Various Congregant Homes

Looking to deepen your connections and build community within Our Redeemer's? Join us for **Breaking Bread, our Sunday evening potluck dinners** designed to bring people together for meaningful conversation and fellowship.

Groups of six will gather at different host homes to share a meal, connect, and enjoy each other's company.

Sign up today to host or attend a Breaking Bread Together Dinner. It's a chance to come together, share a meal, and nurture our community. Email Cindy Anderson (cindyrowananderson@gmail.com) or Anne McGrew (annemcgrew@msn.com) with questions.

We're excited for our next Breaking Bread evening on Sunday, March 9, and we'd love for you to join us—whether as a host or a participant.

SIGN UP TO HOST OR ATTEND (Link to <https://bit.ly/4hviKTc>)



Church Ladies Beer Night

Monday, February 3, 5 PM | Old Stove Gardens Brewery

Looking for a fun, welcoming group to connect with? Join the women of Our Redeemer's for a casual evening of good company, food, and drinks! This monthly gathering is a chance to socialize, offer mutual support, make new friends, and strengthen our connections with each other and Our Redeemer's.

If you identify as female, we'd love for you to join us at 1550 NW 49th St, near the Ballard Bridge.

Enjoy a variety of delicious food and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic options available). Free parking is available nearby. If you have questions or need a ride, feel free to contact Kari Guddal at kari_guddal@outlook.com. We look forward to seeing you there!



October Grounds Crew Work Party

Monday, February 24, 10 AM - Noon | Our Redeemer's Gardens

The birds are eating our flower seed heads! Those dried plants remaining in our garden beds are one way we help steward the earth and its creatures.

Join the effort to care for our gardens with the Our Redeemer's Grounds Crew. We meet the last Monday of every month, from 10 am- noon.

Our next gardening day is February 24. We will weed, prune, and tackle some ivy removal.

Questions? Contact Carol Hurlburt, chtd015@gmail.com or Connie Sandstrom, conniesandstrom05@gmail.com.



Community

Join the Festivities at our Annual Auction!

Saturday, February 8, 5-8pm

Bring your friends and family to this fundraising extravaganza! There will be entertainment for all ages, music, food, a craft room for kids, and, of course, a lively auction to support the ministry and mission of our church emceed by Tim Hunter!

Register & Donate Online: We request that you register prior to the event. Can't attend? You can still register or donate online to show your support. Use the QR code to pre-register and view auction items.

Day-of Registration: You can walk in and register at the event, but note that no cash will be accepted on-site. A credit card must be on file for buying food, drinks, etc. at check-out.

Bid Cards: Pick up your bid card at registration. When you do, we'll ask about your donation amount for the bid card. If you're bidding or buying food, you'll need a credit card on file to check out (unless prearranged with the Parish Administrator).

Plan to Eat? Enjoy a delicious menu featuring:

- Gumbo with Chicken and Sausage (vegetarian available)
- Greens (contains chicken broth)
- Beecher's Mac-n-Cheese (gluten-free option available)
- Cost: \$8-\$15

The "Big Easy" Bar: Pastor Thomas and Aaron Duke will be tending bar! Non-alcoholic beverages will also be available.

Silent Auction: Most silent auction items will be pre-wrapped for easy pick-up at the end of the evening, making checkout smoother for everyone.

Live Auction: Bid on over a dozen intriguing Live Auction items! Preview live auction items on the auction website--use QR code.

Wine Grab: Donate and grab a bottle or two at our Wine Grab table. Bottle openers and glasses will be available if you want to uncork wine for at the festivities.

What to Wear... Think Mardi Gras in New Orleans, and wear your favorite festival attire!

Earn Mardi Gras Bead Necklaces! Pre-register and you'll get 3 strings of festive beads at the door! Buy a raffle ticket at the auction and get one string of beads!

We're looking forward to an incredible evening and can't wait to see you there!

Mardi Gras Auction
FEB 8 5-8PM

Beads, Bids & Blessings!
Saturday, February 8, 5-8pm

You're invited to a family-friendly night of games, music, food, and a lively auction in support of our ministry and mission.

**Southern Gumbo Dinner
Wine Grab
Dessert Dash**

No admission charge. \$25 suggested for a bidding paddle.

Pre-registration requested.

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLAHOE



2400 NW 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98117

www.ourredeemers.net
(206)783-7900

return service requested

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM Informal Worship
11 AM Traditional Worship

Stream Online on Sundays (11 AM)
Facebook: facebook.com/OurRedeemers
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>

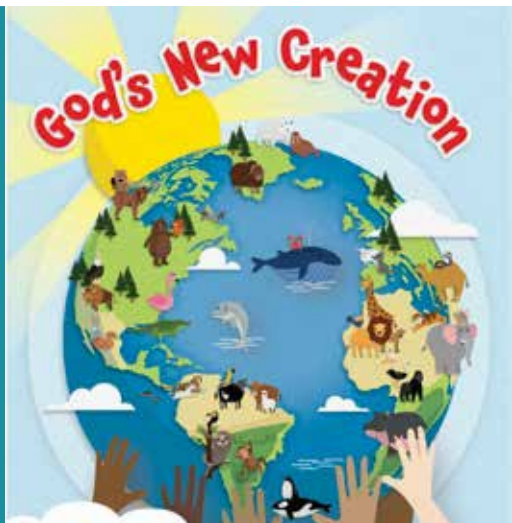
Church office hours:
Monday-Thursday
10 AM - 3PM

Vacation Bible School
July 28-31, 2025
9:00 am - Noon Daily

Registration is Open!




Cost: \$75 thru May 31
\$90 after



Looking for a Summer Camp for the kids? Then have them join Our Redeemer's for an exciting week at God's New Creation, a faith-filled Vacation Bible School where kids will explore God's love through fun, hands-on activities! **Designed for children of all ages, this engaging program is based on ELCA World Hunger's VBS curriculum and focuses on the vital role of animals in ending hunger around the world.**

Throughout the week, kids will dive into interactive Bible stories, creative crafts, energetic games, and delicious snacks, all while learning how farming communities provide food and sustainability for people everywhere. Each day will bring new adventures in faith, friendship, and service, inspiring kids to grow in their love for God and their neighbors. Whether exploring the outdoors, singing joyful songs, or working on special projects, every moment will be filled with excitement and purpose! **Use the QR code above to register** and immerse your child in a summer of faith, fun, and making a difference at Vacation Bible School!

