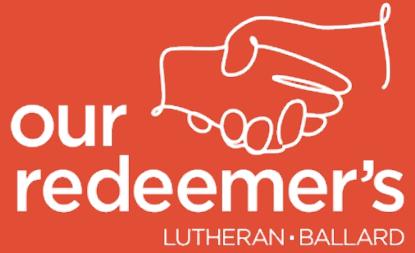


JANUARY 2022



# The Visitor



## Arise, Shine! Epiphany 2022

PAGE 5

Honoring  
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Day

PAGE 11

A Community in the Model of Christ

# From the Pastor...

Revelation 21:3-5

<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
'See, the home of God is among mortals.

God will dwell with them;  
they will be God's people,  
and God will indeed be with them;

<sup>4</sup> God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.'

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said,  
'See, I am making all things new.' Also, this one said,  
'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.

I remember in January of 2021 saying, "This year is going to be SO much better than last!" ...and there were so many parts of it that have been great: Easter sunrise service at Carkeek Park with wonderful new members; getting to lead worship from the beautiful sanctuary of nature; presiding at tiny in-person weddings; worship in my front yard!; finally gathering in our beautiful, purposeful, intentional building; and singing together at Christmas.

**It is easy to become discouraged when so many aspects of our life are changing and beyond our control.**

I encourage you in this: as we move into the season of Epiphany, lift your head, keep your lamps lit (or your holiday lights up!), and dig deep in your heart to bring

whatever trust you can muster and lay your troubles at God's feet. Remind yourself that God is the creator, and God loves you.

**Here is a prayer for you in this season of beginnings and transformation:**

God-with-us, you are our north star.

Continue to be with us in this new year, with all the big changes ahead,

Through all the things we can see coming,  
And those yet to be named.

We're really good, God, at thinking we know how things need to go.

Relieve us of the burden of control.

Remind us of who we are –

beloved,

wanted,

intentionally created.

Help us to know when to hold tight, and when to let go.  
Give us the gift of blessings we didn't know we needed.  
Like this one.

Amen.



# This Month at Our Redeemer's

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

### 2 FROM THE PASTOR

### 4 LIVING GENEROUSLY

### 5 WORSHIP & MUSIC

### 6 COMMUNITY

### 9 FAITH FORMATION

### 10 SOCIAL JUSTICE

## OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Katherine Hawks, Pastor  
kathyh@ourredeemers.net
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor  
pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net
- Elizabeth Dickinson, Social Justice Coordinator  
outreach@ourredeemers.net
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director  
karen@ourredeemers.net
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator  
administrator@ourredeemers.net
- Debbie Lematta, Communications Coordinator  
communications@ourredeemers.net
- Mandy Neill, Welcome Minister  
welcome@ourredeemers.net
- Jordan Holt, Nursery Attendant

Phone: 206-783-7900

Email: office@ourredeemers.net

**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.



## January 2, Sunday

9 AM - Sprouts Class | In Person

**9 AM - Informal Worship**

10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes

10 AM - Confirmation

**11 AM - Traditional Worship**

## January 3, Monday

7 PM - Faith Formation Team

## January 4, Tuesday

7 PM - Executive Team

## January 5, Wednesday

Staff Development Day - Staff Unavailable

10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study | Zoom

**4 PM - Centering Prayer**

7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir | In Person

## January 6, Thursday

**EPIPHANY**

## January 9, Sunday

7 PM - Sprouts Class | In Person

**9 AM - Informal Worship**

10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes

10 AM - Confirmation

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

**11 AM - Traditional Worship**

4 PM - Madonna's Book Group

## January 11, Tuesday

7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates Meeting

## January 12, Wednesday

10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study | Zoom

1 PM - Staff Meeting

**4 PM - Centering Prayer**

7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir | In Person

## January 13, Thursday

3 PM - Community Engagement Task Force

7 PM - Informal Ensemble

## January 15, Saturday

10:30 AM - Caring Community Meeting

## January 16, Sunday

9 AM - Sprouts Class | In Person

**9 AM - Informal Worship | Our Redeemer's**

10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes

10 AM - Confirmation

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

**11 AM - Traditional Worship**

2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner

## January 17, Monday

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - OFFICE CLOSED**

## January 18, Tuesday

7 PM - Council Meeting

7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates

## January 19, Wednesday

1 PM - Staff Meeting

**4 PM - Centering Prayer**

## January 20, Thursday

7 PM - Informal Ensemble Rehearsal

## January 23, Sunday

9 AM - Sprouts Class | In Person

**9 AM - Informal Worship | Our Redeemer's**

10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes

10 AM - Confirmation

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

**11 AM - Traditional Worship**

## January 25, Tuesday

7 PM - Theology on Tap | Reuben's Brews

## January 26, Wednesday

1 PM - Staff Meeting

**4 PM - Centering Prayer**

## January 27, Thursday

3 PM - Community Engagement Task Force

7 PM - Informal Ensemble Rehearsal

## January 30, Sunday

9 AM - Sprouts Class | In Person

**9 AM - Informal Worship | Our Redeemer's**

10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes

10 AM - Confirmation

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall East

**11 AM - Traditional Worship**



# Living Generously



## THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

In the traditional carol, "my true love" gives new gifts each day. Well, community of Our Redeemer's, your open-hearted generosity deserves a song of its own! Here - without any attempt to fit it to the existing music - is an ode of thanks to you and to God, for your kindness and outpouring of generosity, especially during Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas. May you be blessed by your blessing of others! - Pastor Kathy Hawks

On the **FIRST day of Christmas**, God's faithful people gave...**1 Noisy Offering of \$622.77 to Lutheran World Relief,**  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the **SECOND day of Christmas**, God's faithful people gave...**2 Hundred-sixteen pairs of socks,**  
1 noisy offering, And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the **THIRD day of Christmas**, God's faithful people gave...**3 Special Christmas Services,**  
216 pairs of socks, 1 noisy offering, And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the **FOURTH day of Christmas**, God's faithful people gave...**4 Giving Tree Organizations (180 gifts from 101 Giving Tree tags - 80% more than asked that were given to Broadview-Thompson School, Mary's Place, Ballard Food Bank, and Road2Housing Guests),**  
3 Special Christmas Services, 216 pairs of socks, 1 noisy offering, And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the **FIFTH day of Christmas**, God's faithful people gave...**55+ Hours of Preparation, Inside & Out! Christmas Trees, Garland, Altar & Banners, Birch Trees, Lights, Candles, Boboches (look it up), Julekarves (Christmas sheaves), Chrismons, Poinsettias, and Signs,**  
4 Giving Tree Organizations, 3 Special Christmas Services, 216 pairs of socks, 1 noisy offering, And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the **SIXTH day of Christmas**, God's faithful people served...**60 Ballard Sunday Dinners,**  
55+ Hours of Prep, 4 Giving Tree Organizations, 3 Christmas Services, 216 pairs of socks, 1 noisy offering,  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the **SEVENTH day of Christmas**, God's faithful people gave...**70 x 2 Pumpkin Tarts, 110 sleeping bags, 145 hand knit wool caps to unsheltered neighbors on Thanksgiving Day,**  
60 Sunday Dinners, 55+ Hours of Decorating, 4 Giving Tree Organizations, 3 Christmas Services, 216 pairs of socks,  
1 noisy offering, And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the **EIGHTH day of Christmas**, God's faithful people pledged...**\$866,000 to Retire Our Vision-Aligned Building Renovation Loan,**  
70x2 Pumpkin Tarts, etc., etc. ...And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the **NINTH day of Christmas**, God's faithful people, included...**9-teen Worship, Welcome and Zoom Assistants on Christmas Eve,**  
\$866,000, etc., etc., ...And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the **TENTH day of Christmas**, God's faithful people loved...**10 x 2 (all the kids and adult helpers) in the Christmas Pageant,**  
9-teen Assistants, etc., etc., ...And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the **ELEVENTH day of Christmas**, God's faithful people donated...**11 thousand (at least!) volunteer hours from our amazing members around the building, office, and online, helping get us back up and running!**  
10x2 Pageant People, etc. etc., ...And a partridge in a pear tree.

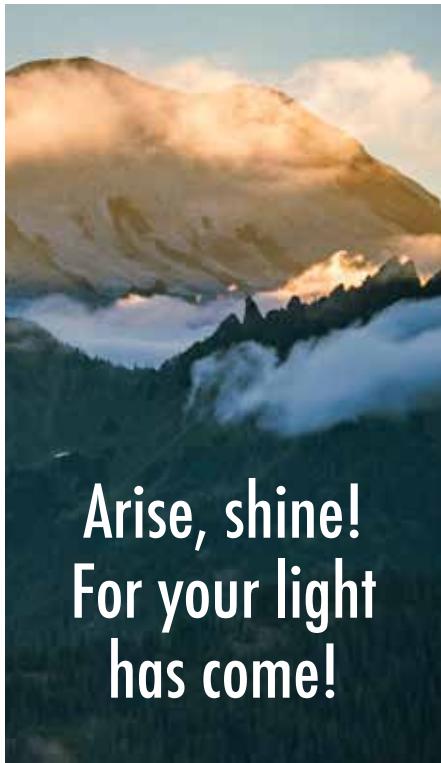
**ON THE TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS, GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE GAVE...**

**Thanks to God for God's own great, good gift  
Of the Christ Child,  
Born among us to save us from ourselves,  
To teach us how to love one another,  
And how to see the divine in our midst.  
Immanuel, God with us.**





# Worship and Music



## Arise, Shine!

Epiphany – Season of Light

There's certainly been plenty of gloom lately! Shadows of uncertainty lurking in the corners of our consciousness. Even before Advent, we've been hoping, and waiting for, and finally, welcoming the Christ child, and the peace and joy he brings.

*Arise, shine! For your light has come!* Isaiah 60:1

Now, as the new year begins, our Pacific Northwest gloom is brightening, which helps us relate to Epiphany's rousing message: the light is growing! As the sun rotates our way, and as the light of Christ extends throughout the world, and century after century.

**Arise, shine! Will be our call!** Even when we'd rather pull the covers over our heads or think the worst, instead we rouse ourselves to step out into the light, walk in it, reflect it, be it, bring it, rejoice in it! And, so, together, we will

*Let our light shine before others!* Matthew 5:16b

**Watch for adult forums, worship, and other opportunities to Arise, and Shine in January and February.**

**We're Grateful to You  
for Generously Giving  
Throughout the Year**

**ONLINE GIVING:**

Go to [ourredeemers.net](http://ourredeemers.net), and click on the "Giving" tab, OR call (206)783-7900 x101.

**MOBILE GIVING APP:** Download the free "Vanco" app and search for "Our Redeemers Lutheran Church".

**MAIL A CHECK:**

Send checks made out to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church and mail to 2400 NW 85th St., Seattle, 98117.

**DONATE STOCK:**

Go to [ourredeemers.net](http://ourredeemers.net), and click on the "Giving" tab and find "Give...via Donation of Stock" link.

**TO SET UP OR UPDATE YOUR AUTOMATIC GIVING:**

Call Administrator Karie Stearns ([administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net), 206-783-7900 x101). She is happy to help you ad answer all your giving questions.

## Centering Prayer

Wednesdays | 4 PM

Our Redeemer's Sanctuary  
2400 NW 85th Street | Seattle

*When was the last time you  
felt deeply peaceful?*





# Community

## Theology on Tap REBOOT!

4th Tuesday of each month, 7 PM | Reuben's Brews, 5010 14th Ave NW

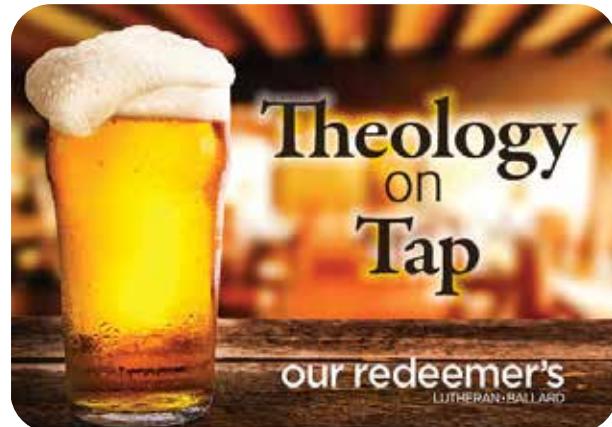
Starting January 27, we will gather on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at Reuben's Brews (<https://reubensbrews.com>) to discuss the theological implications of current issues and topics in the news! We will be inviting folks that are knowledgeable on the "topic du jour" as guest speakers each month.

### Here's what's on tap:

January 25: **Looking at BLM/MLK Day.** What are the theological implications as we head into February and Black History Month?

February 22: **Lent: Why bother?** What's the best practice? What's ridiculous? What is the history of the traditions?

March 22: **Women's History Month: What's the deal?** Aren't we past gender yet? What does God/Theology say about this?



We look forward to seeing you in-person at Reuben's Brews!

## Celebrating January Birthdays

2	Ryan Brady	12	Marie Nordquist-Lessard	15	Oskar Somm	25	Janice LaBrash
2	Carleen See	12	Charlie See	16	Kim Ward Barowicz	27	Jonah Hlastala
5	Erica Prentice	13	Carole Trigstad	17	Miriam Neu	27	Lars Sveum Hanson
5	Miah Wander	14	Joshua Liljenstolpe	21	Lynne McNeill	29	Elisabeth Parker
8	Annelise Glover	14	*Arlene Templin	22	Dorothy Egaas	29	Don Simpson
9	Brennalee Campbell	15	Dave Pelto	22	Paul Wallstrom	30	*Ruby Brantner
9	Paula Hlastala	15		25	Heather Cook	30	Annette White-Yetter

**\*SPECIAL BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO ARLENE TEMPLIN, WHO IS CELEBRATING A 90+ BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH, AND TO RUBY BRANTNER WHO IS TURNING 105!**

## Caring Community Team

The Caring Community Team will have their next meeting on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 10:30 AM. Please contact Linda Carbone for more information or if you want to take part ([lindac19@comcast.net](mailto:lindac19@comcast.net)).



# Community



## Madonna's Book Group

Madonna's Book Group will meet next on Sunday, January 9, 4 PM (location TBD). The book they are reading and discussing is **THE OTHER EINSTEIN**, by Marie Benedict. All are welcome to join in! Contact Lynne for more information: [buckomcneill@yahoo.com](mailto:buckomcneill@yahoo.com).

## 2022 Auction: Boots & Pearls!

7 PM, Saturday, February 5 | Fellowship Hall

**Yeehaw!**

**Mark your calendar for February 5th!** We are gathering in the fellowship hall hootenanny of epic proportions. Time to break out your cowboy hat and that fancy dress for an evening of live music, great food, and generosity! Folks of all ages and stages are welcome – there will be activities for kids, tasty treats, and all sorts of fun to be had!

**Here are ways that you can help to make it happen:**

- 1. Donations!** At our auction, 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.
- 2. Volunteer!** A party like this takes a lot of helping hands. Can you help with procurement? Decorating? Keeping track of bids on the day of the event? Setting up? Cleaning up? Let Pastor Gretchen know what you're able to do to help.
- 3. Invite a friend!** This is a great event to introduce people to your church. Food and fun and generosity go a long way!



**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.**

In December the Norwegian Ladies Chorus rented our sanctuary for their annual holiday concert (photo above). Our Redeemer's requested that the rental cost be donated to a local non-profit. Ballard P-Patch was the happy recipient!

We're delighted that 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](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net)).



# Community

## At Our Christmas Pageant





# Faith Formation



*"The growth of Christianity in the early centuries of the Common Era is one of the most extraordinary stories in world history. What began with a preaching day-laborer and his dozen or so disciples soon grew to be the largest religion in the world, eventually taking over the entire Roman World." – Professor Bart D. Ehrman*

## Bible Study Wednesdays, 10:30 AM | Zoom

The 10:30 AM Wednesday Bible Study resumes on January 5, 2022 with its fascinating series of "The Triumph of Christianity". Professor Bart D. Ehrman, PhD, MDiv, is its facilitator.

Everyone is welcome to join this Zoom Class. Just indicate your interest, or possible interest, to me: Carolyn Swanson, at cdkswan@gmail.com, and I will send you the link each Tuesday for the Wednesday class. It is the same link, but I send it out every week for the convenience of the participants. Give it a try. You can always drop out.



## Sunday Adult Forums in January

January 9 - Sacred Storytelling - Social Justice Focus (see next page)

January 16 - Sacred Storytelling - Social Justice Focus

January 23 - Sacred Stories\* start up again (back by popular demand!)

January 30 - Sacred Stories

\* The continuation of a popular adult class this where we share our personal spiritual journeys with one another. Let Sally Parker-Henderson know if you want share or to learn more, wpainter26@yahoo.com.

## COME TO THE JOURNEY!

- Explore your faith
- Restore your faith
- Learn more about Our Redeemer's
- Get acquainted with more folks here
- Or, become a member.

EACH OF THESE things take place during what we call "The Journey".

### Each Sunday in Lent, 4 - 6:25 PM

Expect "heavy hors d'oeuvre," honest questions, time to listen to the Bible and our own lives, more info about the Lutherans, and about ministries at Our Redeemer's.  
(Child care is available if you let us know you need it.)

You'll receive a letter soon if we suspect you might have an interest, but  
EVERYONE is warmly welcome to participate.

Please let Pastor Gretchen Mertes (pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net) know if you're interested.



# Social Justice



The stories we share will inform our discernment about our future social justice goals. Whether or not you have participated in Our Redeemer's social justice activities, please join us for these Council-sponsored events!

## Sacred Storytelling - Social Justice Focus

Adult Forums, January 9 and 16, 10 AM | Fellowship Hall

Over the past months, many of us have enjoyed reconnecting by listening to each other's faith journey stories.

This month, we'll be doing a different kind of storytelling. During adult forums on January 9 and 16, **everyone** is invited to come share and listen to stories of our personal and church involvement in social justice, and how that has impacted us.

We'll be having conversations and telling our stories café-style (with or without cardamom buns, Covid-dependent) around tables in the Fellowship Hall.

On January 9th, we'll be reflecting on our past commitments, responding to prompts like:

- Tell a story about a way you have been involved in social/environmental justice that has been meaningful to you.
- Share a time that you were inspired by Our Redeemer's to "do justice or love kindness." (Micah 6:8)

On the 16th, we will invite stories that begin to look forward to other possible ways of engaging.

- When you look around at our wider community and earth, what is breaking your heart?
- What action do you long to take, or change you want to be part of, either personally or as part of a group?

## Thank You for Sharing the Joy!

How joyful it is to bring happiness to others through our Giving Tree! Deep appreciation to all who participated and shared the Spirit of Christmas throughout our wider community. And a huge thanks to Paula Hlastala who, once again, coordinated it all!



Paula Hlastala and our Outreach Coordinator, Elizabeth Dickinson, are shown here packing up your generous Giving Tree gifts before delivering them to those in need in the greater community.



# Social Justice



*"On the one hand we are called to play the good Samaritan on life's roadside; but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway."*

-Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence"

*"I must remind you that starving a child is violence. Suppressing a culture is violence. Neglecting school children is violence. Punishing a mother and her family is violence. Discrimination against a working man is violence. Ghetto housing is violence. Ignoring medical need is violence. Contempt for poverty is violence."*

- Coretta Scott King

## Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

*Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of [those] willing to work to be co-workers with God... We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right."*

- Martin Luther King Jr., [Why We Can't Wait](#)

The Racial Justice Advocates group invites you to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with us on January 17th. As of current writing, we are still contemplating opportunities that may include going together to the **MLK Day Celebration at Garfield High School, watching and discussing a movie on racial justice, and/or writing letters advocating for voting rights.**

You're also invited to attend **Advancing Racial Equity**, sponsored by the United Way on January 19th. New York Times bestselling author, poet and educator Clint Smith will lead a conversation with local experts. "Please join us to listen, learn and be in community with one another."

**Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 6:00-7:30 pm. Online.**

Find out more and get \$10 tickets [here](https://rb.gy/oakv34) (<https://rb.gy/oakv34>).

**ADVANCING  
RACIAL EQUITY**

A Conversation with Clint Smith



## February 10th: SAVE THE DATE

Interfaith Advocacy Day is an opportunity to speak with our state legislators about issues that matter to us. There will be bills on climate change, homelessness, health care for immigrants, police accountability and more. Join in on February 10th online, with other individuals of faith around the state. Learn more about how to participate by going to Faith Action Network's website: <https://fanwa.org/>.



2400 NW 85th Street  
Seattle, WA 98117

[www.ourredeemers.net](http://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](https://facebook.com/ourredeemers) and

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

**CENTERING PRAYER**

4 PM - Wednesdays

In-Person



## **Our Redeemer's Auction** **In-Person - Saturday Evening, February 5th**

**Live Band, Dancing, BBQ & Beer**

*Raising Funds for a Purpose...  
You can help! (See page 7)*



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