

JANUARY 2024



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EPIPHANY

Enlighten Us!

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A Community in the Model of Christ

From the (Interim) Pastor...

I cannot believe that it has been nearly a year and a half of being together with you. I was just commenting the other day to someone about how things have changed since my beginning first few weeks with you the summer of June 2022. I remember the slow and challenging return to the sanctuary. I remember the wrestling that so many were doing trying to figure out what this new normal would be, as church, and in this newly renovated sanctuary. Things were not as they used to be – ‘we weren’t in Kansas anymore’. Post-Covid itself was a slog, and many were suspicious, if not skeptical of what flourishing in this new norm would become.

What I have seen is a community faithful to the ministry of Jesus, in all its dimensions. I have witnessed you working through losses and longings—losses for things not being as you once knew them to be, and longings for new leadership to partner with you in your core convictions to have strong faith formation, and to be a social justice, public ministry church.

The faithfulness includes your continued attendance at worship and adult forums; the transition team call committee; the executive and council leadership teams tirelessly forging ahead with amazing commitment to this church; and not least, your amazing staff who gives in ways above and beyond what you do not always realize.

What I see is a people who love this church, and who long to love Jesus faithfully. I have even seen new faces and met new people starting to attend this church who have only become connected to it post-Covid.

This gives me hope. I hope you can see it too. I hope you can feel it, as I do. There is a lot of energy here, and an amazing commitment to and love of Jesus in this place. As you near the next stage of your ministry, with new pastoral leadership coming soon, I pray and trust that you will continue to hold on to being this people God has created you to be in this place and as I see you to be.

You are people who love worship and care deeply for a quality worship experience. You are a people who care for your young people, and for passing along faith to the next generation. You are a people who are very thoughtful and long to learn more about Jesus, faith and Scripture. You are a people who have a heart for the world—the environment, social justice, and for helping to heal the inequities that continue to exist in our community.

God has begun a great work in you, and you will continue this, through the Spirit, with your next partner in ministry. So trust this—you are doing great and amazing ministry; you have wonderfully gifted, and thoughtful ministers, not just volunteers, among you. And for that, I give thanks to God for this new year, and what the future holds.



Celebrating January Birthdays!

2 Ryan Brady	12 Marie Nordquist-Lessard	22 Paul Wallstrom
2 Carleen See	12 Charlie See	25 Janice LaBrash
5 Erica Prentice	13 Carole Trigstad	27 Jonah Hlastala
5 Miah Wander	14 Joshua Liljenstolpe	27 Lars Sveum-Hanson
8 Annelise Glover	14 Arlene Templin*	29 Elisabeth Parker
9 Brenalee Campbell	21 Lynne McNeill	30 Annette White-Yetter
9 Paula Hlastala	22 Dorothy Egaas	30 Mary Melvey

* Birthday blessings to Arlene Templin who is celebrating a 90 + Birthday this month.

We give thanks for the life of Gary Smith- November 26, 2023 (b. May 16, 1936). We pray that God will bring comfort to those who grieve.

January at Our Redeemer's

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9 COMMUNITY

OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- David Hahn, Interim Pastor
pastordavid@ourredeemers.net
(651)587-4417
- Gianfranco Foddai, Informal Worship
Music Director
gianfranco@ourredeemers.net
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship &
Music Director
karen@ourredeemers.net
- Debbie Lematta, Communications
communications@ourredeemers.net
- Mandy Neill, Welcome Minister
welcome@ourredeemers.net
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator
administrator@ourredeemers.net

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.



January 1, Monday

New Year's Day - Church Office Closed

January 2, Tuesday

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom

January 3, Wednesday

6:30 PM - Kid's Choir
7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

January 6, Saturday
EPIPHANY

9 AM - Liturgical Arts Team - "Un-Greening" of the Church

January 7, 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

January 8, Monday

5 PM - A Women's Gathering | Reuben's Brews, Ballard

January 9, Tuesday

7 PM - Executive Team
7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom

January 10, Wednesday

6:30 PM - Kid's Choir
7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

January 11, Thursday

5 PM - All Staff Meeting

January 14, 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: Experiential Church | Fellowship Hall
11 AM - Traditional Worship

January 15, Monday

MLK Day - Office Closed

January 16, Tuesday

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - Council Meeting
7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom

January 17, Wednesday

6:30 PM - Kid's Choir
7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

January 21, 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
2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner | Ballard First Lutheran
3 PM - Madonna's Book Group | Location TBD
6 PM - Breaking Bread Together | Various Homes

January 23, Tuesday

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom

January 24, Wednesday

6:30 PM - Kid's Choir
7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

January 28, 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

January 29, Monday

9:30 AM - Monthly Grounds Crew | Our Redeemer's Gardens

January 30, Tuesday

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom



Living Generously

Our Redeemer's Mission Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (Thru 11.30.23) (41.67% thru the fiscal year)

To view an updated Financial Snapshot spreadsheet for Our Redeemer's visit this [LINK \(https://rb.gy/kq6xlb\)](https://rb.gy/kq6xlb). If you have questions or concerns about Our Redeemer's financial status, contact Karie Stearns, administrator@ourredeemers.net.

Income	2023-2024 Approved Budget	Year to Date Income as of 11.30.23	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget Year to Date
Envelope & Loose Offerings	511,100	165,301	32%	(47,656)
Church Use	88,506	38,535	43.5%	1,658
Fundraising (Auction)	38,000	0	0.0%	N/A
Interest	1,000	110	11.0%	(307)
Special/One-Time Gifts	-	31,000	N/A	31,000
Total Regular Income (without Special Giving)*	638,606	203,946	31.9%	(62,139)
TOTAL INCOME*	638,606	234,946	36.8%	(31,139)
Expenses	2023-2024 Approved Budget	Year to Date Expenses as off 11.30.23	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget
Social Justice/Outreach	74,549	19,786	26.5%	(11,277)
Pastoral Staff	172,820	52,461	30.4%	(19,548)
Worship & Music	38,382	14,320	37.3%	(1,673)
Fellowship & Caring	2,750	1,695	61.7%	550
Faith Formation	22,517	12,294	54.6%	2,912
Stewardship	11,419	3,354	29.4%	(1,404)
Communications	55,667	27,442	49.3%	4,248
Facilities	108,978	48,301	44.3%	2,893
Administration	150,615	48,397	32.1%	(14,359)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$637,697	228,050	35.8%	(37,657)

Special Giving denotes a one-time gift that is outside of regular giving. Regular giving is below budget by \$47,656.
 *The auction is scheduled to occur later in the fiscal year, skewing the total over/under budget year to date numbers.
 For questions/concerns-please contact Parish Administrator, Karie Stearns at administrator@ourredeemers.net.
 Thank you for your support!



Sonja Braasch

My Tanzania Vision Trip by Sonja Braasch

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am writing to let you know that I will be embarking on a two-week Nebraska Synod Vision Trip to Tanzania from January 21 to February 6, 2024. I will be taking the trip with my sister, who is a Lutheran pastor in Dakota City, NE.

The trip cost is \$4,600.00 and I'm asking for donations to help with the cost. Donate any amount you want using this link: <https://rb.gy/48j872>.

There are two major components to this trip. The first is to learn about the culture of Tanzania and the ministry of the Northern Diocese of the ELC in Tanzania. The second is to visit the famous natural areas of Northern Tanzania and view the beautiful scenery and wildlife.

This two-week adventure provides us with a wonderful introduction to life in a developing country through visits to churches, schools, health centers, ministry sites, and local villages. Our safari will be to Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti region.

I look forward to presenting a slide show when I return from my trip. Thank you for considering a donation.

Sister in Christ, Sonja Braasch



Worship and Music



Epiphany: Enlighten Us by Pastor David

We are entering the season of Epiphany in the church year. Epiphany is the season of light. The word is not unfamiliar to us, and it certainly plays into our vocabulary and the ways of naming profound experiences of our lives. We hear people claim to have had an epiphany about something. And therein lies some truth to the meaning of the word. To have an epiphany is to have something appear to us, to shed light on a truth that has been revealed to us that offers insight to understand ourselves, others, and our world a little better.

For the church, the season of Epiphany holds similar meaning. However, our primary emphasis as the church orients our attention to how Jesus brings us to emergent understandings of and appreciation for God's presence among us. We have journeyed through Advent, our preparing for Christ born in our world, to Christmas, the celebration of the gift of God's presence among us, and now to Epiphany, the ways in which this Holy Presence in the person of Jesus enlightens the world.

And yet, a revealing, especially in this Jesus person, is not without questions. Questions are always out-standing with respect to the instances that are not quite so clear or self-evident. The texts we will hear during worship remind us of the various ways Jesus has been enlightening the world.

The guiding question for Epiphany will be, "who is this Jesus person as one who enlightens us?" Is he a threat as Herod and the religious authorities claim? Why would he be a threat? Is he a guide who merely models a way of living? Is he a prophet? Is he an anointed one? A political leader? God?

When we say "Enlighten Us" what are we doing? First, we are praying with intention and attention. What I hope we lean into during this season of Epiphany is a deeper, more curious listening ear for how it is that Jesus is still communicating to us. Second, we are confessing that Jesus is our Spirit-led leader who sheds light on how it is that God is present and moving among us, and the powerful implications such a movement has for us as the people of God. Within it all, we are invited into a curious inquiry, for what all of this means, and that's OK.

It is in this journey of discipleship, of openness, becoming learners of Christ, where we wrestle with the ways that we are being enlightened, through our praying and confessing, and questioning, that as the people of God new epiphanies are promised.

I pray that this journey through Epiphany gives us a shared and renewed focus for the season, and a lens for imagining anew how it is that God in Jesus enlightens our way.

"There is something powerful about light coming into the world that opens up new questions, and new possibilities. The possibility that our futures may not be solely dependent upon our own creation and self-sufficiency. The possibility where curiosity, trust, and hope become the new companions on our journey into a light that guides the way."

- Pastor David



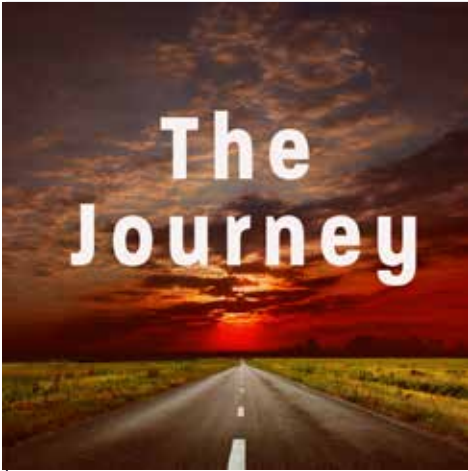
Help Needed for "Ungreening" of the Church

We'll be taking down Christmas in the sanctuary on Saturday, January 6 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Help is needed to pack up and stow the holiday finery and get ready for Epiphany.

Just show up on January 6th at 9:00 am. The coffee pot will be on!



Faith Formation



You Are Invited to The Journey: An Orientation to Our Redeemer's Community

The Journey is a class and a conversation, where, together, we learn more about what being Lutheran and a part of Our Redeemer's means. Participants meet in large and small group settings during the season of Lent (February 25th- March 24th) each Sunday from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

Each of the 5 weeks, we focus on a different area of ministry, theology, and growth as people of faith. From the basics - 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.

- Representatives from many different areas of ministry within our congregation will come share with us.
- We'll get to know other participants in small groups, as well as each being paired with a long-time member of the congregation.

At the end of the Journey, we extend an invitation to participants who are not yet members of Our Redeemer's to affirm their faith. Regardless of whether you become a member or not, the Journey is a wonderful way to become more involved in this church family - no strings attached!

If you are newer to Our Redeemers, or if you've been here for years but never attended the Journey Class, we encourage you to be a part of The Journey starting February 25th.

To register to participate or if you have questions about The Journey, please contact Mandy Neill, our Welcome Minister, at welcome@ourredeemers.net. (Childcare can be available upon request.)



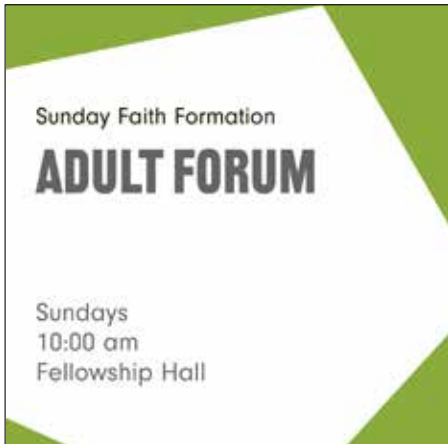
Candidate Interviews in Progress

by Andrew Shimer

The Call Committee continues its interview process with the current candidate slate. We took a break over the remainder of the Christmas season to discern and get a feel for which remaining candidates will be the best fit for next steps in our interview process. The committee is hopeful that we will finish the selection process the first part of January. A future update will be released in January.



Faith Formation



Adult Forums

Sundays, 10 AM | Fellowship Hall

Church looks very different today than when we were growing up. For some this sparks anxiety that is rooted in our feelings of loss and our longings for the future. Starting January 7th and continuing until Lent, **Pastor David will lead us through our Sunday scripture passages to discover how God ministers to us in our anxieties by inviting us to slow down, wait, and discover vitality among us.**

“Experiential Church”, where we encounter God through art, nature, and embodied practices, will continue on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The next Experiential Church forum is January 14th at 10:00 am, More details to come.



THE LiVE PROJECT

living into vocational engagement

The **LiVE Project** is a networked lay learning community discerning God's call; theologically thoughtful, culturally responsive, and communally engaged; connecting churches and forming Christian public leaders; a flexible, hybrid model of learning: Zoom and face to face.

The LiVE Project: Upcoming Offerings

Rest & Renewal Day Retreat: Ministering in an Age of Mental Health

Saturday, February 3, 9AM-3PM, Our Savior's Lutheran, Everett

Many in our congregations and broader communities are experiencing higher rates of anxiety, depression and stress these days. Rooted in our Christian faith, how is the Spirit calling us to wholistic healing for the body, mind, and spirit, as well as becoming better companions to those longing for a more flourishing life?

Find more information and register here: <https://rb.gy/pkncm1> and enter promo code: LIVEBUNDLE2023 for FREE registration!



Lent with Baldwin & Bonhoeffer Course

6-week course via Zoom, Thursdays 7-8:30PM starting February 15

What might Dietrich Bonhoeffer (a Lutheran German theologian) and James Baldwin (a Black, 20th century author and novelist) together have to prophetically speak to our current time?

Learn more and register here: <https://rb.gy/6stsdC>. Use promo code: LIVEBUNDLE2023 for free registration!



Social Justice



Earth Justice Spring 2024

Save these dates to care for the Earth with your Our Redeemer's Lutheran community!

May 11, 2024, 10 AM - 2 PM

It's another Neighborhood Recycling Roundup! Bring your no longer wanted electronics and Styrofoam to be collected. We're looking for a co-chair for this event. Please contact Connie Sandstrom at conniesandstrom05@gmail.com if you can help out.

Spring, 2024

Pacific Beach cleanup! More information to come.

Ballard Sunday Dinner Needs You This Winter

Ballard Sunday Dinner (BSD) is a ministry in which we partner with local churches to feed our hungry neighbors on the third Sunday of each month. Please consider signing up to help out now that the weather is cooler. All needed roles have lots of availability, and we'll partner up with you until you're comfortable!

Sign up by using this link: <https://rb.gy/ea817> or reach out to Amy Borgmeyer (amy.borgmeyer@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for all that you do!



Council Member Bio: Erica Prentice

Hello from the desk of council member Erica! I've been a member of Our Redeemer's for around ten years. I live here in Ballard and I have two daughters at Whitman Middle School. I started here looking for a loving and supportive community in which my daughters could grow up. In the end it's me that has also "grown up" here and have felt much love and support from this amazing community. In my life outside of the ORLC community I am an Environmental Chemist, Girl Scout leader, music lover, avid skier, hiker, rock climber, mountain biker, and, in general, mountain mama that can also be found at times floating in the sound on a stand up paddle board!



All our love to this amazing community,
Erica, Hazel, Eliza, and Rafari the seal stuffie!



Community



A Women's Gathering - You're Invited!

Monday, January 8, 5 PM | Reuben's Brews, 5010 14th Ave NW

Are you looking to strengthen your connections with the women of Our Redeemer's? Join us every first Monday of the month at Reuben's Brews at 5:00 pm for an evening of engaging conversation, food, and beverages! The group size varies, ranging from a cozy 4 to a lively 12. Regardless of the number, you're sure to leave with a heart full of warmth! Be a part of the upcoming conversation on Monday, January 8th. Reach out to Kari Guddal at (206)790-1780 or Connie Sandstrom at (206)375-5449 with any questions. Everyone identifying as a woman is welcome!

Our 2024 Auction Date Moved

Our 2024 Fundraising Auction has been moved to a Spring 2024 date (to be determined)

We still need some auction leaders to step up! Jump in and be creative, collaborate with others, and help out the church! Contact welcome@ourredeemers.net for more information about our annual **fun**draiser and how you can help out!

Madonna's Book Group

The Madonna's will meet next on Sunday, January 21st, 3:00 pm at a member's home. The book the group is reading over the holidays is *THE ALL OF IT* by Jeannette Haien. Please join in! Contact Lynne at buckomcneill@yahoo.com with questions or to be added to the contact list.

Holden Village 2024 July 14-21 | Holden Village

Do you long for time in nature, more time to spend with your fellow parishioners, or a break from email and social media? Well, you're in luck! Our Redeemer's is going to Holden Village Lutheran Retreat Center at Lake Chelan next summer and registration is now OPEN! Cost:

5 days: adult \$685, child (over 4) \$480;
7 days: adult \$889, child (over 4): \$634.

There is a \$150 deposit required at registration. Payment plans are available.

Come to Holden this summer! Register using this LINK (<https://rebrand.ly/5174bf>).



Community



Rest & Reset Retreat - Come Away With God

Friday - Sunday, February 16 - 18

Register at <https://rb.gy/tgmb3i>

Did you know that rest is Biblically mandated? After a busy holiday season, you're invited to our first-ever adult Rest Retreat at Rainbow Lodge, a cozy cedar lodge at the base of Mt. Si in North Bend. Explore what the Sabbath means, connect with God, and find rest for your mind, body, and spirit. The retreat cost for the weekend and all meals is \$290 (\$60 more to have a solo room). Register here: <https://rb.gy/tgmb3i>. Come all who are weary!

Women's Retreat - "Finding Hope..."

Friday - Sunday May 3-5,

Register: <https://rebrand.ly/pytax06>

Anyone who identifies as female is invited to Seabeck Conference center on Hood Canal May 3-5. It will be a time of building community, digging deeper, and finding inspiration in God and one another. **The theme is "Finding Hope in Troubling Times"** with guest speaker Deanne Wildermuth, a fun and personable retired Lutheran pastor. The cost is \$290 for the entire weekend (full or partial Scholarships available by request). A \$58 deposit due at time of registration. Paper registration forms are available in church office or fill out a google form here: <https://rebrand.ly/pytax06>. Please pay a deposit by check to the main office or through online giving on Our Redeemer's website and choose "Other" and designate "Women's Retreat".



Monthly Grounds Crew Meets in January

Monday, January 29, 10 AM - Noon | Our Redeemer's Gardens

Do you smile when you pull out a dandelion, root and all? Whatever your garden happy moment is, from weeding to pruning, the Grounds Crew has a place for you! Please join us on January 29 from 10:00 am - noon and bring your garden tools. Come for conversation and working together in our front garden beds, rain or shine!



Community

Christmas at Our Redeemer's





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 (11 AM)
Facebook: [facebook.com/OurRedeemers](https://www.facebook.com/OurRedeemers)
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>

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



Breaking Bread Together- January Dinners

Sunday, January 21, 6 PM
Various Congregant Homes

Have you been wanting to get to know more folks at Our Redeemer's?

On Sunday, January 21st at 6:00 pm, groups of around six people will gather at a host's home for dinner. **The host will provide the main course, while others bring side dishes.** If you participated in the October dinners, you're welcome to again; groups will be shuffled so you can meet different folks.

Sign up to participate or host here: <https://rebrand.ly/1d1pxwg> or contact welcome@ourredeemers.net.



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View Our YouTube Channel