**JULY 2019** 



# TheVisitor



A COMMUNITY IN THE MODEL OF CHRIST

# **Contents**

FROM THE PASTOR 3
VISION ALIGNED BUILDING 4
LIVING GENEROUSLY 5
COMMUNITY 5-8
MEET THE NEW MEMBERS 7

WORSHIP AND MUSIC 9-11

FAITH FORMATION 12

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES 13

SOCIAL JUSTICE/EARTH CARE 14-15





Our community, our calling.



- Katherine Hawks, Pastor
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director
- Shannon Beck, Interim Social Justice Coordinator
- · Jonath Ochs, Communications Coordinator
- Katlin Dickinson-Laurence, Data Base & Front Office Assistant
- Ronda Andrews, Welcome Minister
- Hannah Wetter, Nursery Care Provider

2400 NW 85th St. • Seattle, WA 98117 • 206-783-7900 • www.ourredeemers.net

### FROM THE PASTOR...



Sitting surrounded by greenery on a summer day on Vancouver Island. Mountain peaks are sharp, etched with snow; their bases lost in mist blurring the line between sea and land. The breeze is lively, but warm, and I'm so relaxed that even the squabbling crows sound idyllic!

#### Ohhh! Vacation!

I'm marveling again at the truth of what I already knew--that time away is one of the best battery chargers there is.

AND I'm especially aware of the luxury of also being (mostly) away from all my "devices." It's been a while since I had any concern my Spider Solitaire computer game was taking over my life, but even so--I'm conscious of how beneficial unplugging is to my spirit, my relationships, my sleep and my overall well being.

Ken Lubkowski recently pointed me toward "Like", a documentary about the effects of "screens" on kids, and, more importantly, the positive effects of radically reducing screen time when a school took the daring step of banning cell phones at school—despite the outcry of parents, as well as kids.

The outcomes? The school that adopted the no cell phone policy is Bellevue Christian Middle School. It was screened at the Bellevue Christian High school and both middle and HS principals spoke after the movie along with a school counselor and outside psychologist.

# When you go on vacation this summer, cut your dependence on screens.

As a pastor, as *your* pastor, this is my advice to you for the well-being of your soul. You do not need the relentless influx of unsolicited but tempting "stuff" that comes to you.

Observe how you feel. Not just the first couple of days when the habit of still strong within you to "just check and see" who has texted you. Observe how you feel after a week or more. How are you? Any calmer? Any clearer-headed? Possibly even....well, happier?

And then, after a healthy stretch with maybe one check PER DAY, begin adding back your usage as sparingly and intentionally as you can.

I truly believe your joy, your relationships, and yes, even your relationship with God, will be richer.

Which of course means your life itself will be more full.

In Christ's love and fullness of life,



Yalkine Hawk

## **BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION!**



# OUR REDEEMER'S VOTES TO NEGOTIATE SALE OF PROPERTY

Monthly info-sharing coffee hours scheduled

Between services on June 2, 108 members of Our Redeemer's gathered to vote on whether to negotiate a sale the portion of our property currently leased by the City of Seattle for the Ballard P-Patch, plus 6200 square feet of our parking lot (the north row of stalls). The vote passed, 89 to 29.

The original motion from our Church Council was amended at the meeting to address concerns that the final purchase and sale agreement also be voted on by the congregation. Our constitution requires a congregational vote for sale or purchase of property. This amendment made it explicit.

This recommendation to sell was the result of months of study following the City of Seattle's determination in January 2018 that our renovation plans would trigger requirements to bring our whole building up to all City codes: seismic, fire suppression, mobility and accessibility, etc. Initial estimates for those upgrades exceeded \$1.5 million, almost doubling our budget for the renovations.

Members of the Vision-Aligned Building Team and Pastor Hawks have been working intensively with the Ballard P-Patch and their fiscal agent, GROW, to support efforts to raise money to buy the property so it can remain a community garden forever. Renewal of the parks levy on the August ballot holds a great deal of promise for making this possible. BE SURE TO VOTE! Our Redeemer's leadership is also currently working with Ballard P-Patch and GROW on a Memorandum of Understanding that preserves Our Redeemer's ability to move forward confidently with our building plans, while affording the P-Patch the maximum time to raise funds. Both Our Redeemer's leaders and P-Patch leaders see a successful sale to the P-Patch as far and away the best option, and a clear win-win.

In response to requests at the June 2 meeting for more congregational conversation, members of the Vision-Aligned Building Team will be available during coffee hours on the third Sunday of each month after the late service this summer. (In the fall, we'll figure out whether to meet between services, or after late service, or to alternate.)

Our deep thanks to the members of the Vision-Aligned Building Team who are working so tirelessly and expertly on this lengthy, demanding project: Jim Arnold, Mike Hlastala, Kirsten Malone, Ryan Mertes, and Pastor Hawks. (When our new administrator is on board, he or she will also be on the team.)





### Thank You For Living and Giving Generously

Our Redeemer's Mission Budget Ends Fiscal Year in the Black

This year Our Redeemer's is on track to conclude our fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) on or ahead of our budget. This is especially good news because even though we have been fully staffed, we have not yet needed to use ANY of the Calvary Legacy funds as originally planned.

In 2014, our congregation voted to add staff to support our strategic plan: a full-time, experienced associate pastor and a communications person. To implement that, money from the sale of Calvary Lutheran's facility was set aside to offset the increase in budget. The draw from Legacy funds decreases each year, while the congregation's portion increases. In 2018–2019, we planned to use \$45,000 of Legacy funds, but have not yet had to use any of those.

Your generosity makes this good news possible -- along with all the good news Our Redeemer's ministries and welcome provide so many people throughout the year, and throughout our community.

#### THANK YOU!



## **COMMUNITY**

# Parish Administrator Search Continues by Pastor Kathy

Sadly, our search for a parish administrator hit a dead end in June when our first choice candidate accepted, and then, a week later, rescinded his acceptance of our position when another offer came to him. A search team composed of Jim Arnold, Bob Carlson, Shelbe Kukowski, Katlin Dickinson–Laurence and Pastor Hawks will continue to solicit resumes and conduct interviews. Please keep this process in your prayers, and stay tuned.

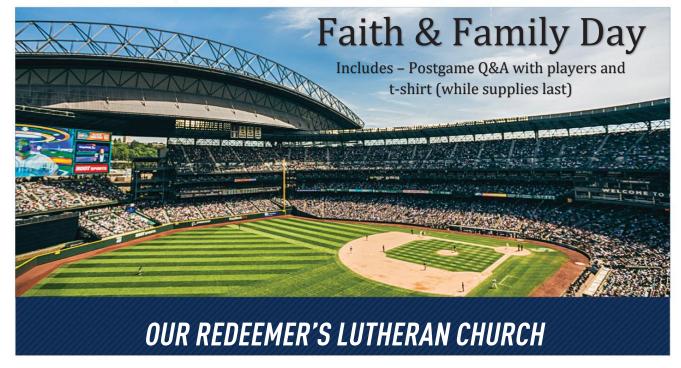


### Men's Breakfast

Wednesdays, 5 ~ 7am Patty's Egg Nest 9749 Holman Rd NW

Refresh your spirit in the new year with good company, coffee, and pancakes at Patty's Egg Nest.

### 2019 \* SEATTLE MARINERS



The Seattle Mariners are extending a discounted ticket offer! Enjoy a community building activity with your friends and family members!

### **GAME DATE:**

### TIGERS VS. MARINERS SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2019 • 1:10PM

View Seats for \$18.00 Rate

- Bring out your family and friends and join our team at T-Mobile Park to watch some exciting Major League Baseball action.
- We have a large block of seats reserved for the game, so order your seats now and join us for some fun at the ballpark.

### **PRICING & DETAILS:**

#### View Seats for \$18

If you would like to sit with another family, please place one order for the entire group. Orders are filled on a first come first serve basis and are based on availability.

Order Now! - Deadline to order is July 11th

Watch for our name on the video board in the 4th inning for our special welcome to T-Mobile Park.

Questions? Please contact Ronda Andrews at 206-790-7294

### OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH JULY 27, 2019

NAME			# of View Reserved Seats@\$18.00 =
ADDRESS			If you would like to sit with another family,
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
DAY PHONE			— Total Amount Enclosed \$
EMAIL			Checks payable to:

### MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

### The Neill Family

with Nancy OldenKamp

### What drew you to attend Our Redeemer's?

We were looking for a church that was inclusive and affirming, as that is an important value to our family. We were first drawn to Our Redeemers because of your focus on social justice and reaching out to the community. On our first Sunday attending, we were so warmly welcomed by Nancy Oldenkamp and Candace Todd, who my husband had a personal connection to in the past, that we felt right at home.

### Where did you live as a child?

Matt and I are one of the rare couples who both grew up in Seattle. In fact, he used to do Cub Scouts in this very building. We both went to Ballard High School– although barely knew each other and never imagined we'd get married almost a decade later.

### What are your interests/passions/hobbies?

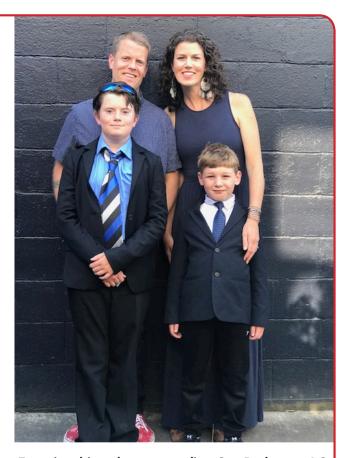
A free day for Mandy would include a walk in the woods and visit to the beach, reading great books, a good cup of coffee, and a good conversation with a friend.

Matt enjoys running, working on projects around the house, woodworking, and getting out in nature.

### Something you look forward to this year?

(Mandy) I just took a step back from a fun but stressful non-profit job and am excited to finally have more free time to invest in my kids, selfcare, passion projects, and building relationship with others.

Matt's looking forward to a family road trip down the beautiful Oregon coast this summer.



#### Favorite thing about attending Our Redeemer's?

(Mandy) I LOVE the wide variety of spiritual backgrounds and personalities that make up Our Redeemers. Meeting folks through *Theology on Tap* and finding out how our beliefs and experiences can sometimes be so similar, has definitely been a highlight.

Matt appreciates the low-key, casual environment at Our Redeemers where everyone feels welcomed and at home.

# Anything else you would like us to know about you that we may not know?

We have 2 kids: Leta, who is an incredible artist and a quiet but compassionate almost-6th-grader; and Richie, who's 7 and is good at anything where he gets to move fast (swimming, biking, monkey bars, trampoline, etc...).



# HEADING OUT WITH HOPE....? DON'T FORGET YOUR CHURCH COMMUNITY!

**Heading out with hope?** Your church family hopes that you are! Hitting the trails, the open road, the wide waves, whatever your heart desires!

While you're gone, please continue to offer your financial gifts to support the hope we share and generate here at Our Redeemer's. It takes all of us...even when we're on vacation!

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 2 2 3 4 5 6 6 6 8	Nic Glover Bob Carlson Sharon Longaker Jerri Harden Celeste Lenihan Elizabeth Green Lori Kesl Ryan Mertes Aiden Smith Sean McCormick	15 15 15 16 17 18 18 18 19	Nga Copeland Elizabeth Rallo Laura Stembridge Debby Kleiss Harold Laurence Riley Hammett Sandy Haug Betsy McGregor Laura Simmonds Thomas Butler	22 25 25 25 25 25 25 27 27 27	Don Kleiss America Mejia Amy Borgmeyer Carlin Orr Frank Peters Lesley Sheppard Charlotte Wallstrom Rainer Germann Sig Hall Leslie Wander
					5
9	Steve Cromwell	19	Pat Erickson	27 27	Margaret Wetter
9	Joanna Elizondo	19	David McBride	27	Janet Woodfield
10	Mike Hlastala	20	Richard LaBrash	28	Mateo Frantz
13	Anika Michaelsen	22	Sandy Box	28	Kay Sterner
13	Bobbi Miles	22	Heather Campbell	29	Emily Forssen

# WORSHIP AND MUSIC







### Celtic Contemplative Communion by Pastor Kathy

Coming Sunday, July 14 ~ 10am

A Celtic contemplative communion service, with sweet bagpipes, strings and percussion, providing Our Redeemer's Sunday morning worship on July 14, in Seattle's only service by this ensemble, on tour from Minnesota and serving as musicians-in-residence at Holden Village.

The ensemble have led the Celtic Contemplative Communion service at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN for 17 years. *You do not want to miss this!* 

### About Celtic Spirituality:

Celtic spirituality harkens back to the practices of the early Irish church, possibly as early as the 4th century. These practices were marginalized by the influence of the Roman church in the later middle ages, but are believed to have survived in traditional folk practices and prayers. One of the primary sources for these traditional prayers is the Carmina Gaedelica (the songs and poems of the Gaels), collected from the Scottish Hebrides in the late 19th-century. These prayers typically bring the awareness of God into the many daily mundane tasks, while inspiring the imagination and revealing the hand of God in creation.

### About the Celtic Contemplative Worship:

While there are many modern interpreters of Celtic spirituality, the creators of this service use their work only tangentially. The emphasis here is really on contemplation. We use a fairly eclectic approach to worship and integrate elements from Celtic spirituality, Taize, lectio divina, and zen, the last 3 of which give the service a decidedly contemplative feel. It is perhaps the Celtic music which defines the feel and flow of this service, and we find this style to be so very effective in the service of contemplation and communion with God.

# **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**



### Band Recording a Record (In-Studio Update) by Pastor Gretchen

Recording is coming along nicely, and we have completed tracks for the bass, drums, electric quitars, mandolin and penny whistle. The vocals, acoustic quitars and keys are happening at the end of June, and then we will enter the "mixing" stage where we make it all polished and beautiful. We have been enjoying being guests at the Nickerson Recording Studio at Seattle Pacific University, and learning more about the music program there – which is quite amazing. High school musicians, take note!

Thank you to everyone who has kept a watchful eye on this process, and been encouraging to us! If you'd like to hear a "scratch" track of one of the recordings, stop by my office and I'll be happy to give you a listen!

### **Summer Special Music**

July 7th - September 15th

I'm so grateful to our choirs for their dedication as they sing throughout the program year, September through June! And I'm also thankful for the singers and instrumentalists who are sharing their talents with us for Summer Special Music – **Sunday mornings from late June – early September!** 

### The remaning schedule for Summer Sundays follows:

July 7, 10:00 a.m. – Cello & Recorder – Noreen & Jon Jacky

July 14, 10:00 a.m. – Pilgrim Celtic Trio, visiting from St. Paul, Minnesota

July 21, 10:00 a.m. – Clarinet & Flute – Eric Bedell & Joanna Elizondo

July 28, 10:00 a.m. – Pastor Gretchen leading music in worship

August 4, 10:00 a.m. – VBS Sunday

August 11, 10:00 a.m. – TBD as of this writing, but Strings will probably be involved!

**August 18, 10:00 a.m.** – Vocal Solo – Sam Purvine, Tenor (followed by Welcoming Wisdom)

**August 25, 10:00 a.m.** – Trombone & Trumpets – Raymond Larsen, Carey Rayburn, and Jerome Smith

**September 1, 10:00 a.m.** – TBD as of this writing, but Piano will probably be involved!

**September 8, 11:00 a.m.** – Flute & Octave Violin – Joanna Elizondo & Fred Flickinger (and Kick-off Sunday!)

September 15, 11:00 a.m. – The Choir returns!

On some Sundays, we have the ability to "double-book," so if you would like to be added to this list, just let Karen Lee know, and we'll see what's possible.

Looking forward to a summer of wonderful music – please join us in worship!

by Karen Lee, Our Redeemer's Traditional Worship and Music Director





# CENTERING PRAYER WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

Thursdays, 6-6:30 PM

Centering Prayer will take a break for the summer, returning on **Thursday, September 12**, at our usual hour of **6-6:30 PM**. We'll celebrate returning to this silence by sharing a meal following worship on that day.

See you then!



# **FAITH FORMATION**



### **Confirmation Update**

August 11-15 ~ Lutherhaven

Thanks for a great year of confirmation classes, servant events, retreats, camp, and general fun. We have a great crew of kids and I love teaching them, listening to them, learning from them, and laughing my way with them into a closer relationship with God.

We are on break for the summer, except for confirmation camp at Camp Lutherhaven August 11-16. We will have an informational meeting for all kids in 7th and 8th grade on **Wednesday** August 21 at 6pm with pizza, and all the information we need to have a great year. The schedule for the entire year will be laid out, so we can make sure that confirmation is a priority for our kids, and their families! There will be a great need for parent volunteers as well as other volunteers, so if you are interested in helping with confirmation even if you are not directly related to a confirmand, please put that meeting on your calendar. :)

### VBS Sign Up / Volunteers

by Pastor Gretchen

Vacation Bible School is here this month!! If you have not signed up your child for VBS, or if you would like to volunteer, the time is NOW! We need everyone's help, and every kid to participate in VBS to make it the romping success that we're hoping for! The link to sign up or to volunteer is here: https://ourredeemers. net/sian-up-here

We are exceptionally lucky to have a group of students coming to be with us from Billings, Montana. Six students and three adults are joining us to help with VBS! One way you can help with VBS is by hosting a student or chaperone in your home. This is a great opportunity to share quality time with someone from somewhere completely different from Seattle. Please contact Pastor Gretchen ASAP if vou are able!

Let's have the best VBS ever!



How many people are going to Holden? 53!! Woot.

# WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

Some 11–15 folks gathered around the library table to study the subjects of the 2018–2019 year which were: Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation, Elijah, Elias, and The Lord's Prayer. Each learning experience was enhanced by a DVD, the first subject taught by a learned Professor, the second by a slightly dorky tour guide, but he was actually in the Holy Land, and finally a downloaded course on the Lord's Prayer by N.T. Wright. If you know Wright's works, you can imagine how pleased and excited I was to share his course to end our year's work.

We take on a new Scripture area for us with some of the oldest texts in the Bible: The Wisdom Books. Those include, in their probable order of writing, Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes (also called Qohelet), Ben Sira (also called Sirach or Ecclesiasticus), and the Wisdom of Solomon

(also called Song of Songs). We'll include Daniel, some Psalms, and portions of the Gospels. We have a Catholic Jesuit priest from The Great Courses on DVD.

Although we like to think of Solomon writing some of these books, probably they were written by sages, what we might call "the Israelite intelligentsia." Scholars debate whether there was a group of sages, as distinct from (for instance) prophets or priests, or a general intellectual movement among the Israelite elite but no distinct group. The sages also served as diplomats, palace bureaucrats, counselors, advisors to the king, educators, and scientists. The sages wrote and edited the Wisdom books over the course of almost a thousand years.

Here are some samples of our study for September. Please join us and see if you like it:

**Daniel:** Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them."

**Proverbs:** Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

**Job:** I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.

Mortals, born of woman, are of few days and full of trouble.

**Ecclesiastes:** There is no remembrance of people of old, and even those who are yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

**Song of Songs:** See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.

Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love.

Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come; the cooing of doves is heard in our land.

Do not stare at me because I am dark, because I am darkened by the sun. My mother's sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I had to neglect.

If she is a wall, we will build towers of silver on her. If she is a door, we will enclose her with panels of cedar.

**Sound like fun?** Guess what is my favorite Wisdom book?

Enjoy summer.

by Carolyn Swanson



# SOCIAL JUSTICE / EARTHCARE

### **Pride Thanks**

Thanks to everyone who took it to the streets to celebrate our LGBTQIA sibs. Also, thanks to those who were there in spirit and prayer. An exciting time was had by all.



### Do you like to hike?

Our Redeemers Earth Care is looking for someone to help lead a hike on **Saturday**, **July 27th**. Does this sound like fun to you? Maybe a waterfall hike? Get a hold of Shannon at <u>outreach@ourredeemers.net</u> to volunteer for this awesome summer fun! Also, be in touch if you would like to qo!



### **Ballard Sunday Dinner**

A yummy-looking pizza- July 21st

Many Our Redeemer's servers will be at Holden village for the **Ballard Sunday Dinner** and/or **Sandwich Sunday.** We are thinking we will go with pizza and salad – a simple meal! Can you step in for our hard working volunteers? Let Shannon know. Our hungry neighbors need you! **Sign up now!** 



### **Road To Housing Update**

Our Redeemers Road to Housing

Your ministry needs you! Do you want to make a difference in our community? Join the team! The Social Justice team will take a break for the summer, but we are excited for new ideas. Contact Shannon at <a href="mailto:outreach@ourreddeemers.net">outreach@ourreddeemers.net</a>. We are also wanting to expand our Road to Housing team. Currently there are 2 people working with this program, which isn't a sustainable model. Please prayerfully consider how God might be calling you in this particular season.



### **Troubling the Waters**

Part 2 of a four part series on the experience of Ecumenical Advocacy Days

The church supported Sydney, Shannon, and Katlin at Ecumenical Advocacy days in April. This yearly event held in Washington DC culminates in a visit to Capitol Hill to advocate with our elected officials. People of faith go together, representing nearly every state, bringing an important Christian voice to our senators and congresspeople. Working together, our voices are amplified, and we are empowered to do Christ's work in the world. Together, we trouble the waters.

The scripture John 5:1-9 was the subject of the interdenominational worship that myself, Shannon, and Katlin took part in through the gracious generosity of this congregation sending us to Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2019. It reads,

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down

ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

Looking at this chunk of scripture it is all too easy to fall into our own preconceived notions about people without privilege. "Did the man even want to be healed?" "He didn't even answer Jesus." "He made excuses." "The man had been there over 30 years and the pool was RIGHT THERE."

But what of the other people at the well? The folks making their way to be in the troubled waters to heal themselves? Had no one even stopped to even consider paying their good fortune forward to someone who had clearly been waiting for so long?

What this truly spoke to me was that in order to effect lasting change we must engage the systems that keep people oppressed. We must examine the structures designed to perpetuate the cycle of oppression and take a good hard look at how our privilege leads us to benefit from those systems.

It would have been easy for Jesus to adhere to the rule for keeping the sabbath. But rather than turn a blind eye to the man at the pool and say, "Why haven't you just made it to the pool already" or "Can't help ya, it's the sabbath" Jesus met the need of the human before him. Let us go and do likewise.



2400 NW 85th Street Seattle, WA 98117 www.ourredeemers.net 206-783-7900

**NON-PROFIT ORG US POSTAGE PAID** SEATTLE, WA **PERMIT #587** 

return service requested

**WEEKLY WORSHIP** 

Sunday - 10am (Traditional) ~ 7pm (Informal)

### **Summer Worship** by Pastor Gretchen

This summer we are trying a new approach to the informal service! You are invited to join us in person at parks around north Seattle, or online through FaceBook live. Services will be at 7pm, with a bonfire as often as we are able to manage it! We will have songs, prayers, a sermon, and communion each week - just like our normal services. We will be posting the information on FaceBook and around the church so people know where we will be exactly at the parks, once we have picked the location.

We do need help with this service – it takes a village! Here are the things we need help with each week:

- Bonfire set up (including bringing firewood!)
- Live feed monitor person paying attention to the Facebook feed as we are worshipping.
- Phone video person actually shooting the service with a phone for the live feed.

- Communion setup person bringing the bread and wine, and serving dishes to the park.
- · Kid-friendly activity person
- Scripture readers, communion assistants the usual. :)

If you are able to help out, here's a link to the sign up: https://signup.com/qo/BwuhBVD

Contact Pastor Gretchen if you want to be part of the Worship in the Park team!

#### The schedule is as follows:

July 7 –	Golden Gardens
July 14 -	Sunset Hill Park
July 21 –	Carkeek Park
July 28 –	Green Lake
August 4 –	Golden Gardens
August 11 –	Sunset Hill Park
August 18 –	Carkeek Park
August 25 –	Green Lake





