

JULY 2020

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

The Visitor

TRANSFORMING SPIRITUALITY



OUR ANNUAL MEETING & VOTE IS JULY 12
~FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ON PAGE 5~

DEEPENING COMMUNITY



ENGAGING OUR NEIGHBORS, SERVING THE WORLD



A Community in the Model of Christ

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On the Cover: Our Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, July 12th at 1pm. See page 5 for all the details.



*Left:
Can you identify
these Our
Redeemer's staff
members from their
baby pictures?
(answers below)*

*Clockwise from Top:
Pastor Gretchen;
Katlin (Welcome Minister);
Shannon (Social Justice);
Karen (Worship & Music);
Debbie (Communications);
Pastor Kathy.
Center:
Karie (Parish Administrator)*



- Katherine Hawks, Pastor kathyh@
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor pastor.gretchen@
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator administrator@
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director karen@
- Shannon Beck, Interim Social Justice Coordinator outreach@
- Debbie Lematta, Communications Coordinator communications@
- Katlin Dickinson-Laurence, Office Coord. & Co-Welcome Minister office@
- Amy Hammett, Co-Welcome Minister welcome@
- Hannah Wetter, Nursery Care Provider

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From the Pastor...



I sit looking out over a very low tide. My whole view is nothing but swaths of green and bluish gray. Directly in front are dappled rocks, and just beyond, a field of neon seaweed covers the stony beach. The water placidly ripples, supporting a lone duck. Across the harbor, the darker greens of trees. Sky and water brighten and darken repeatedly and randomly. Crows proclaim their territory. Swallows dart. And I just sit. On a granite boulder. Huge boulders around me in just the right shape let me lean back and pray, and think, and restore my soul, sheltered somewhat from the falling mist and from the wind. All at once the old hymn my father loved, surfaces like a seal's smooth head breaking the water:

*Rock of ages cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.*

Sanctuary. That is what I am experiencing here. Sanctuary that restores me to myself. And gives me peace, quiet joy, and energy for what comes next.

How much we all need such times and places! These days are so full of change, uncertainty, turmoil, and frustrated, fervent hope for what must be different. It takes a lot out of us. Especially when we have to stay physically separate from each other.

When I ask myself if it is God's will we move forward with our vision-aligned renovation, moments like this remind me how essential soul restoration is for all of us to neighbors and members alike. And how hard it can be to find such places in our increasingly dense urban neighborhood! At the very same time, these pandemic days teach us the depth of our need for the human connection of our faith community—

no matter how many people swirl around us. I think how important Our Redeemer's steady work for the sanctuary, dignity and justice of every person is—whether unsheltered, rejected, or facing other challenges.

Spirituality. Community. Justice. Not just for our own sake. Or even for the sake of our children and grandchildren. But also for our neighbors, whose souls are also seeking restoration and also yearn for greater justice. A building that invites them into the life and hope and faith within our warm, risk-taking, grace-filled community—where all are truly welcome—gifts, warts, pain, joys, mistakes, and all.

What a thrill we are so close to making this vision a reality! By itself, our renovated building would be nothing. But filled with community, ministries, and vision for this critical time? Our building will not be a shell, but the vessel and tool we and our neighbors need!

Thank you for prayerfully considering the materials sent to you and the call God has given us now and for the future. Please participate in our annual meeting, Sunday, July 12 at 1pm.



Gratefully serving Christ and our neighbors with you,

Pastor Kathy

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Helping with Worship by Pastor Gretchen

We would love to have your talents and abilities through our online services! If you would like to read scripture, pray the prayers, or sing a song of special music, you can totally do that! And it would be a gift to our community. Simply contact Pastor Gretchen (pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net) or Karen Lee (karen@ourredeemers.net) with your ideas or desires to help, and we'll plug you in, gratefully! Kids and youth are encouraged to participate, as well as folks of all ages. You don't have to be a professional, or even polished. God loves gifts that are offered with heart. Thank you for thinking of ways to participate!

How to Worship on Sundays Online

We gather *each Sunday online at 11:00am. There are three ways to do this.*

By Facebook Live. Simply go to www.facebook.com/ourredeemers. You don't have to have a Facebook account – it's a public channel.

By Phone. Call 1 669 900 9128 , and then enter this number when prompted: 822 691 346. This method only lets you listen, but it works well, and is less technologically fraught.

By Zoom. Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>. The link works from 10:45am – 12:15pm every Sunday.

[Katlin](#), our Welcome Minister, will be monitoring the chat and make sure that our worship leaders know what questions you have. The bulletin each Sunday will be available on our website for download at www.ourredeemers.net/virtual-worship/.

If you have questions about live-streaming, please email [Pastor Gretchen](#) or [Katlin](#).

Our worship band, The Informal Ensemble's, new album is worth a listen.

[LISTEN NOW!](#)





GOD'S CALL | OUR VISION

OUR REDEEMER'S ANNUAL MEETING

1 pm | Sunday, July 12, 2020

Agenda

- Review and Give Thanks for Year Concluding
- Celebrate Volunteers and Elect New Council Member
- Two votes: Annual 2020-2021 Mission/Operating Budget
- Plans and Budget for Vision-Aligned Building Renovation

The annual report will be emailed the week before the meeting.

If you would like a hard copy, please email Katlin, at office@ourredeemers.net and we will mail you a copy.

IN PREPARATION

Four Interactive Cottage Meetings are Offered (two presentations offered twice)

Saturday, June 27 – 11am: Vision-Aligned Building Conversation

Thursday, July 2 – 7pm: Mission Budget of the Congregation

Sunday, July 5 – 4pm: Mission Budget of the Congregation

Tuesday, July 7 – 7pm: Vision-Aligned Building Conversation

PLEASE read the background information in the booklet you receive.

It also includes step by step instructions for participation, no matter what your device or comfort level.

[Zoom LINK for all meetings](#) or go to <https://zoom.us/join> | Meeting ID: 965 1034 7384 | Password 137898

UNCERTAIN HOW TO ZOOM?

- Follow the step by step Zoom tips in your booklet.
- Each cottage meeting will provide practice and trial voting.
- Let Pastor Kathy or Karie Stearns (Parish Administrator) know, and a Zoom Assistant will be provided.

Are you willing to be a zoom assistant? Please let Pastor Kathy or Karie Stearns know. Thanks so much!



FAITH FORMATION

Strength to Love Discussions Continue

Mondays, 7pm

Strength to Love is a collection of Martin Luther King Jr.'s written words and the most influential book in Outreach Coordinator Shannon Beck's library. We meet on Mondays at 7pm via Zoom. We have discussed MLK's Letter from a Birmingham Jail, and explored King's response to the Vietnam War. The evenings are facilitated by Shannon via Zoom. [Let Shannon know](#) if you have any questions. Contact office@ourredeemers.net to get Zoom information.



Claiming Our Story: White Privilege and Racial Justice

Sundays at 9:30am ([Same Zoom# as Worship](#))

This is a rather ad hoc conversation, prompted by a variety of videos and resources available to help those of us who are white take a look at how, largely without our intention or even much knowledge, we have played a part in the continuing racial conflicts and inequality of our nation.

As followers of Jesus, we have a particular call to serve our neighbor...and, in this time and this somewhat removed place, to better understand the story that is all of our story, so that we can choose its ending, rather than continuing to play it out painfully over and over, without healthy, just resolution.

We've already looked at Brene Brown's very accessible, very truthful video talk after Charlottesville. She combines her psychological and research background to her down to earth, no-nonsense straight talk about white privilege. All in a way that keeps our defenses to a minimum. **Take a look at it:** [LINK](#).

Next we'll be looking at the post-Civil War history, and the ways the emancipation proclamation was undercut and undermined right up until the Civil Rights Act, and beyond.

Faith and Spiritual Resources for Trying Times

Many folks said they appreciated the newsletter devoted to faith resources. So, staff and members are invited to continue to sharing and encouraging one another. Check out Our Redeemer's closed Facebook group, Spiritual Life Hack. [Go to our Facebook page](#) and search for Spiritual Life Hack and request to join.

Another great option is the new Faith Resources page on Our Redeemer's website. Staff members post things there whenever they are moved by what they read or come across. If you have a particular need for faith support, be sure to let one of the pastors know.

And finally, we have an amazing group of folks making up our Prayer Chain who faithfully take your prayer requests and pray them. [Find out more information and how to connect here](#). Sunday morning prayer requests can be made on the spot during worship, or emailed to a staff member during the week. Let us know if your request can be public, or should remain confidential to staff or pastors only.

God's peace, power and joy to all of you in your faith journey!!



FAITH FORMATION

OUR REDEEMER'S GOES TO HOLDEN!

Monday, July 6 through Saturday, July 11

You are invited to participate in Holden Week at home July 6-11. Each night, we will gather at 7pm to sing Holden Evening Prayer. Each day we have a class and event to participate in! The Holden Fireside classes are podcast from Holden's educational archive that you can listen to anytime during the day. Other events are as scheduled. [[SEE FULL SCHEDULE AND HOW TO ZOOM LINK HERE](#)]

Monday - July 6

7:30 pm - Slide Show/Story Time - Join us on Zoom and share your favorite Holden stories and photos! This is a great way for us to learn and share our times at Holden. To ensure that everyone gets a chance to share, please just bring one photo and/or one story.

Holden Fireside Class - Alan Storey
Conversation and Confrontation Plus
Contemplation



**HOLDEN
@HOME**

Tuesday - July 7

Holden Fireside Class - Alan Storey
Eucharist June 25, 2017, "Back to Basics: 1st
Principles"
(Liturgy by John Hermanson)

Wednesday July 8

1pm - Holden Bread Making on Zoom with Bob Carlson - Join us on Zoom with Bob to coach us through making our own home-made Holden Bread! Just make sure you have the ingredients on hand, and we'll have a blast!

Holden Fireside Class - Alan Storey
[In the Silence AND in the Earthquake](#)

Thursday - July 9

Holden Fireside Class - Alan Storey
[Reign of Christ: Facing Fascism Faithfully](#)

Friday - July 10

Holden Fireside Class - Alan Storey
[The Widow with Alan Storey](#)

[Check out our
website for
Zoom links and
information](#)

7pm - An Actual Conversation with Alan Storey - Pastor Storey will be joining us LIVE from Capetown, South Africa to talk with us about our experience of hearing his class!

Saturday - July 11

Nature Hike - 2pm - Join us for a socially distanced nature hike in our own Carkeek Park! We will hike in down to the beach, and then hike back out again. Weller (age 6) can do this hike - so it's not super-difficult, but there is a bit of elevation gain on the way in and out.

10am - Holden Bread Making on Zoom with Bob Carlson - Join us on Zoom with Bob to coach us through making our own home-made Holden Bread! Just make sure you have the ingredients on hand, and we'll have a blast!

7pm - Variety Show & Ice Cream Social - Wrap up our Holden Week with some Holden Hilarity! [Sign up to participate in the variety show.](#) Music, jokes, acting, skits, and costume-drama are welcome! Also, bring an ice-cream treat to eat while we enjoy the talents and revelry of our congregation.



FAITH FORMATION



Our VBS this summer is obviously a little different, but it should be loads of fun! We are sad that we can't be together in person, but we will still be sharing our art and our ideas. We encourage you to [register](#). It could just be your household, or it could be a few families from your block, or if you just have a playmate that would make VBS more fun for your child – whatever you're comfortable with hosting.

Here's how it works:

Each day we will gather on zoom for an opening time of songs and fun with Pastor Gretchen, and then you'll be off to the races with whomever you have invited to be part of your VBS. We check back in on zoom at lunch time to see what people learned, and to share what we've done.

There are six activities daily: Bible Story; Games; Music; Snack; Crafts; Community Crafts

You can do the activities in whatever order you want each day, except the first day when the craft comes first. The activities are designed for kids ages Kindergarten – 4th grade, and older kids make great helpers and game leaders. The whole family can pitch in!

Craft supplies and snack supplies will be assembled by volunteers for each hosting home. They will be dropped off the weekend before VBS.

Here are the daily themes we will be looking at for Being A Neighbor!

Day 1: The Walls Fall Down – People have always been willing to stand up for what they believe. The people in this story used trumpets to make their voices heard and bring God's love.

Day 2: The Good Neighbor – When someone is in need, we stop and help them. No matter how different they might be, we are to help them. That is what Jesus means by loving your neighbor. Your neighbors is anyone in need.

Day 3: Talking Donkey – God speaks to us in unexpected ways. Listen to the world around you. Listen to people. Listen to creation. Listen to your own heart

Day 4: Jesus Stands Tall – Standing up for others is how you be like Jesus. Jesus stepped in to help even if other people did not like that he did.

Please click on the following link to register: [LINK HERE.](#)

All questions can go to [Pastor Gretchen](#), who is super excited to help you participate!

COVID-19 UPDATE

May/June, 2020

As Governor Inslee continues to assess King County's health, Our Redeemer's staff and leadership seeks to adapt and assess what works for our congregation, while providing as many safe opportunities for worship and ministry as possible.

We are all yearning to worship together in person! So on June 21, we acted on the Governor's permission, and offered outdoor worship, with more than 6 feet of distance between worshipers, and each person bringing their own chair, communion elements, I-pad or cell phone for a bulletin. People registered ahead of time, giving contact information, and worshipers were checked in. Masks were required, and along with sanitizer, were available in abundance.

This was an entirely new venture for us, with on-line Zoom and Facebook live-streaming of the service. Those present in the parking lot were enthusiastic; those on-line found challenges with the sound. We are currently researching to see if there is a fix for the sound. If there is, we will have more outdoor services. If not, the amount of effort involved and the inability of on-line worshipers to really hear or participate, means we will need to wait until a Phase of the Governor's plan that will allow us to be inside in closer proximity.

MEANWHILE, it appears that "attendance" at our Sunday worship is at or beyond our usual average, when you include Zoom attendance, Facebook Livestream, and people who watch the video later. Not only have a few folks from the neighborhood we have yet to meet in person begun joining us, and family members who live in other states, but also some people with challenges that make in-person attendance impossible. Our warmest welcome to all of them!

And, our Circles of Connection small groups are also continuing...with a few new circles each month. For those participating, reports are that this has been a wonderful opportunity to connect, check in, have some conversation and pray together. Our thanks to those who are helping make this happen. WANT TO BE IN A CIRCLE? [Contact Pastor Gretchen.](#)

Meanwhile, our staff continues to deal creatively with our limitations. Be sure to check out all the [Holden @ Home activities](#), volunteer as a leader for [Vacation Bible School](#), or as a [Zoom Assistant](#) for our cottage and congregational meetings.

AND ABOVE ALL, CONTINUE WORSHIPING, REACHING OUT TO YOUR FELLOW OUR REDEEMER'S FOLKS WITH CARING AND CONNECTION. TRY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A QUIETER CALENDAR TO BUILD IN SOME INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY DEVOTIONS. ([See the Faith Resources Blog at www.ourredeemers.net.](#))



Worship service was held outdoors and live-streamed online June 21st



LIVING GENEROUSLY

THANK YOU FOR LIVING GENEROUSLY, EACH AND EVERY ONE!

I hope the big takeaway is actually for the church: that we as Christian communities invest ourselves in that kind of healing, strong vulnerability. That is at the core—especially for those of us who are Lutheran—of our identity.

ELCA Pastor Noah Hepler in [Living Lutheran](#) Magazine, reflecting on his experience on “Queer Eye”

Faith. Healing. Hope. Justice. For souls. For bodies. For people. For our community. Thank you for offering a tithe of all God has given you toward our shared ministries and God’s mission through Our Redeemer’s.

Despite unprecedented and unexpected changes during our 2019–2020 fiscal year, Our Redeemer’s thrives, thanks to your steady giving to sustain our talented, undaunted staff; new approaches to existing ministry, and new ministries to connect and bless us...even while so physically distanced.

Although only God knows what lies ahead, we can and will survive and grow through the “vulnerability” (to use Pastor Helper’s word) of the coming months, as we continue to share generously and connect creatively, by the power of the Holy Spirit!

I do hope for the church that we can continue to embody that kind of vulnerability, because I think that helps us, if nothing else, at least to begin to stand in better ways with the poor and the oppressed.

Pastor Hepler

Phishing/Scam Alert: No one from Our Redeemer’s will ever send an email or text to you asking for a favor, money or gift cards! If you DO receive such an email or text and want to make sure it’s legit or not, please email administrator@ourredeemers.net and/or report the phishing/imposter scam to this government run reporting [LINK](#).

BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

Vision Aligned Building (VAB) Update

June 23, 2020



The project continues to be on schedule and within the established budget. The building permit is issued; Grow and the P-Patch have signed off on their review contingency, the non-refundable deposit is with escrow, and closing is scheduled for mid-July. The general contractor has provided final pricing that is within budget, and the loan funding that will round out the financial package for the Church is approved.

The overall budget for the project includes a 10% construction contingency to be carried by the Church. This contingency is in addition to the smaller contingency carried by the general contractor in their bid. There is also another \$60K contingency for project-related costs. While this is a conservative approach, it intends to ensure the budget for the work manages the risks and is a maximum amount. If there are savings and some of these dollars are not needed, the loan portion of the funding package will be reduced accordingly. Since the loan funds will be the last dollars spent, this has the effect of potentially not advancing the full amount approved.

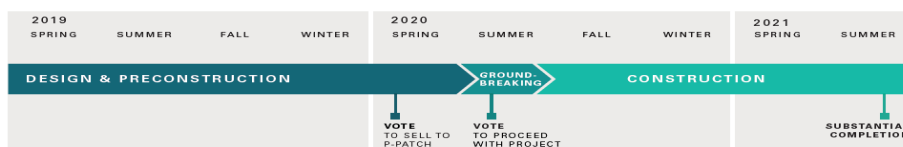
The next milestone is approval by the congregation at the vote scheduled for July 12. If approved, the Church will be signing a contract with LZL Construction, the general contractor, later in July and will begin the process of storage, salvage, and removal of the organ (which gets refurbished and reinstalled) to make way for the start of construction in mid-August.

Budget

The council approved the budget for the overall project in February 2020, and no significant changes have been needed.

Schedule

Phase 1.5 and 2.0 of the COVID-19 restrictions allow new construction projects to get underway. A safety plan for managing the work is required and submitted by LZL before work begins. The project remains on schedule, as presented to the congregation in February..





COMMUNITY

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 Robert Carlson	17 Harold Laurence	25 Amy Borgmeyer
2 Sharon Longaker	18 Sara Riley	25 Frank Peters
3 Jerri Harden	18 Sandra Haug	25 Charlotte Wallstrom
6 Lori Kesl	18 Betsy McGregor	27 Rainer Germann
9 Steve Cromwell	18 Laura Simmonds	27 Leslie Wander
9 Joanna Elizondo	19 Pat Erickson	27 Margaret Wetter
10 Michael Hlastala	19 David McBride	27 Janet Woodfield
10 Ainsley Tung	20 Richard LaBrash *	28 Mateo Frantz
13 Anika Michaelsen	21 Sally Parker-Henderson	28 Kay Sterner
13 Bobbi Miles	22 Sandra Box	29 Emily Forssen
15 Elizabeth Rallo	22 Heather Campbell	
15 Laura Stenbridge	22 America Mejia	

* Celebrating those who are 90+

Life Masters...What's That?

Wednesday, July 15, 12pm

Zoom: <https://zoom.us> | Meeting #965 7272 6373 | Password: 564308 | Phone in: (253)215-8782

Life Masters is a monthly lunch gathering and conversation for all folks 50 and older. Lately, we've been gathering via Zoom, to check in ("How are you doing in these challenging times?"), discuss things that matter to us, and pray with and for each other.

In July we'll be learning from two of our folks who attended a workshop put on by Adult Lutherans Organized for Action (ALOA) on Effective Ministry to Older Adults.

COME ON IN, SIT DOWN, AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION on Wednesday, July 15 at noon.
Our connections with one another are never more treasured than now, so join in!

If you have questions about "Zooming", please contact Katlin at office@ourredeemers.net.

Circles of Connection

Be sure to reply to your invitation to be part of a Circle of Connection! If you haven't received an invitation, please contact [Pastor Gretchen](#) to remedy the situation. Groups will Zoom for an hour (or less) at whatever time and day works for the people in the group. It could be a happy hour, lunch, or any kind of gathering. The makeup of Circles of Connection groups will be loosely based on life stage or circumstances, and copious amounts of zoom technical help will be available every step of the way. Keep an eye out for your invitation to connect and be a part of a Circle!

Helping with Hunger by Paula Hlastala

Feeding the hungry right now—it's an overwhelming proposition; the need is unprecedented. Food insecurity has a huge effect on people, taking an especially high toll on young people who need nourishment for critical stages of physical and emotional development.



I'd like to share a plan for a new kind of feeding program. It's a program I'm simply calling **FulFILLment**-- and though it's a work in progress, its mission is to serve families suffering with food insecurity, and to provide aid, comfort, and hope. In addition to our amazing social justice community at Our Redeemer's, I have found amazing partners at the Plus One Foundation. Although helping fight hunger has not been part of Plus One's specific mission, they agree with the social justice stance that it's hard to heal your heart, body and mind if you are hungry!

Once the program is up and running, FulFILLment distributions will be shipped to individuals across the U.S. regardless of race, religion, disability, or gender. They can apply for their household to receive a food box subscription in the form of a care package of shelf-stable, nutritious food along with notes of encouragement, small surprises, and recipes. Participants will receive 6 food boxes, with a shipment approximately every 2 weeks over the course of 3 months. (Or clients may also request a one-time delivery of single, larger box.) Using Priority Mail to get food to someone's mailbox takes the burden of time, energy and logistics off of the recipients.

Over the course of the subscription period, the main goal of FulFILLment is to provide families with healthy, non-perishable pantry staples, but another important goal is to develop a relationship with the people receiving care packages. After the subscription period of 3 months, those who request further assistance may be matched with other individuals or groups that would like to become pen pals of sorts, and the care packages and mutual correspondence might continue indefinitely.

If you are inspired to help people with food insecurity, please keep up with the social justice team at Our Redeemer's and their food-related activities. And if you have any comments about the FulFillment project or would like to keep posted as this program evolves, [please visit this blog](#), and feel free to check out Plus One's web page <https://www.plusonefoundation.org/> and join their mailing list, or contact me directly at paulala343@hotmail.com. I'm hoping our first trial of 50 participants will be able to receive their introductory care packages in the near future!

I'm not sure where this road will lead, but grateful to be taking steps down that path - eager to see what FulFILLment might bring for folks in our community and beyond. Thank you for all you do to help others in need!

*This is a monthly feature in The Visitor about our community members' experiences and faith during this time. Do you have something to share? If so, please [contact Pastor Kathy](#).



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Statement of Intent, Solidarity, and of Hope

As with most of you, the Social Justice Team has been wrestling with how to respond to the recent racist murders in our country by law enforcement. We have long discussed race as a central concern, but have felt unsure how to bring others along with us as we follow the path of Jesus. Right now, we believe, is a time to **Show up! Speak Up! Stand Up!** And so, we, together, crafted this response and call to action for all who care about God's beloved community here and around the world. We are in agreement, all who were part of the process, that this is a good statement, and one worthy of recognition and support.

This is a statement of intent, of solidarity, and of hope for our church's engagement in being an active part of the solution to racism as an inclusive, welcoming congregation. We know a statement means little if there are no actions that spring from it and we are looking forward to being involved in prioritizing racial justice as a central piece of God's call to us in this season. It is interesting that in this "building season", what feels like a fairly inward focus, we are also being called to "build out". We are hands on, ears tuned, committed to change ourselves and our world. We have begun conversations about having a task group for racial justice. Please consider if you would like to participate.

We believe this is God's call to us in this season. **But we do not walk alone.** As the African proverb goes, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together".

**This statement is an evolving document
reflecting the hearts and intentions of an evolving people;
written by members of
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church's Social Justice Team.**

We stand in the wake of another barrage of violence against black people in the United States. Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Manuel Ellis, and George Floyd are the victims we are aware of who have died while in police custody since March 6, 2020. Last week Robert Fuller was found hanging on a tree in the Palmdale town square. After centuries of racist policy that took root with the enslavement of African people for profit, we are finally awakening to the realities of individual and systemic racism and discrimination.

The Social Justice team believes Black Lives Matter. We also believe God is calling us at this moment to show up, speak up, and stand up to racial injustice and white supremacy in ourselves, our communities, our country, and our world. We are in agreement with the ELCA recent statement on racial justice which states, among other things:

- **White supremacy is racism and we condemn it**
- **The love of God is for all people, without exception, and we proclaim it**
- **The justice and mercy of God are for all people, without exception, and we proclaim this**
- **We are called by Jesus to "love our neighbors as ourselves." Therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy.**
- **We call all congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to engage in communal study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons** (Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric Social Policy Resolution CA19.04.18)

continued next page



SOCIAL JUSTICE

And in alignment with the vision statement of ORLC:

“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.”

We believe God is calling Our Redeemers to an intentional season of self-reflection, discernment, and action to begin to reckon with the violence of racism and white supremacy in our personal and shared lives. We suggest a one-year commitment to begin. We will undertake and encourage our congregation to commit to this in the following ways and others as we learn:

- **Repentance** – We will humbly examine our thoughts, beliefs, and actions. We will confess our sin, offer accountability and grace to others and ourselves, and change our behavior through worship, prayer, and daily choices.
- **Education** – We will seek out multiple ways to educate ourselves about our privilege(s) and listen to God and our neighbors – especially the voices of those most impacted by the sin of white supremacy. We see this as a life-long task for all ages.
- **Advocacy** – We will deepen our support for our partners and other organizations that work closely with People of Color (POC). We will address racial justice and equity through policy changes, by standing alongside those most at risk, and by amplifying voices of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). We will continue to seek out ways as we discover them.

Finally, we celebrate this pilgrimage together as a living testimony to God’s grace and persistence in building the beloved community. We see this as a living document to be adapted as we grow in understanding of our privilege and the ways we are complicit. We expect that we will make mistakes and be uncomfortable. We are willing to grow and change. We are willing to do the hard work with the Holy Spirit as our guide until all people are treated with their deserved respect. We look forward to the day when all of God’s children can be liberated and we can thrive together.

In gratitude, hope, and justice,

Shannon Beck, Social Justice Coordinator
And the Our Redeemers Social Justice Team
June 16, 2020





SOCIAL JUSTICE

Racial Justice at Our Redeemer's

Continue in conversation and the reading of **Martin Luther King, Jr.'s letters** for the month of July. On Mondays, July 6 and 20th. See page 6 for additional information.

We are planning on the follow readings and conversation via Zoom, but we are remaining open to where we feel God is leading us to learn.

Monday, July 6 – Vietnam War letter ([Zoom link](#))

Monday, July 20 – I have a Dream speech ([Zoom link](#))

In August, Marie Brisette, a member at Our Redeemers and professor at Bellevue college, will be leading us in a study of the book, **How to Be an Anti-Racist**. Please order it now! Or download on Audible. <https://www.ibramxkendi.com/how-to-be-an-antiracist-1>.

Finally, join us Sunday mornings at 9:30am for **Claiming Our Story: White Privilege and Racial Justice**, a look at how, largely without our intention or even much knowledge, we have played a part in the continuing racial conflicts and inequality of our nation. ([Zoom link](#))

Stay tuned as we continue in conversation and action.



Ballard Sunday Dinner

Sunday, July 20th, Ballard First Lutheran Church

We have been grateful to be able to serve a healthy, tasty meal to around 40 people at Ballard Sunday Dinner the past several months. It is good work to do, and especially is a reminder that God cares for everyone in every situation. Serving in this way is Spirit work: we come alongside folks who (in this season) need some extra support. The Holy Spirit is called "The Comforter" literally, "one who comes alongside to help." So, when we serve, we are co-creating a more generous and healthy world. I hope you will volunteer July 20th.

[SIGN UP HERE \(https://rb.gy/5km343\)](https://rb.gy/5km343)



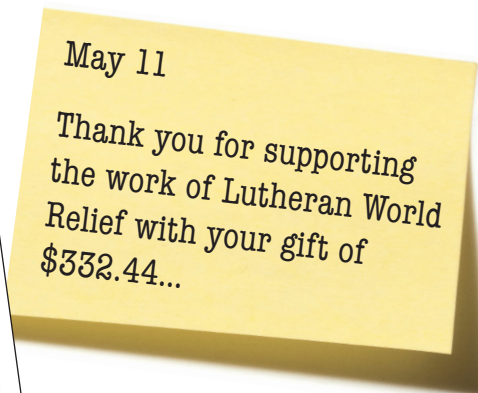
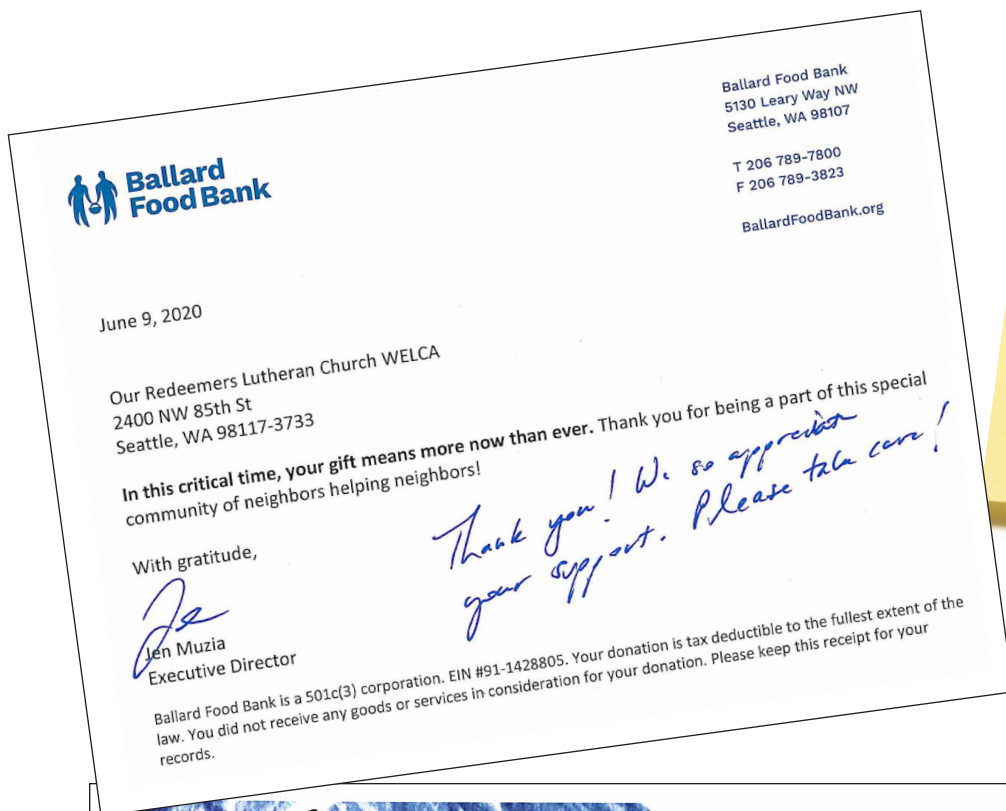
SOCIAL JUSTICE



Representing at
the Black Lives
Matter Silent
March June 12.



Thank You



NO ONE'S CHILD SHOULD SLEEP OUTSIDE

We were stuck... Mary's place gave us the tools to transition into housing + employment. We are so grateful!

*Amara, Brandon
and baby girl*



I want to express my appreciation for your extremely generous gift of \$500 to Neighbors in Faith. Your contribution and commitment to our mission is incredibly helpful and allows us to do the work of building bridges of understanding and unity in a divided and fearful world.

A heartfelt thank you from all of us at Treacy Levine Center.

Liz Gimmestad

Liz Gimmestad, Treacy Levine Center Board of Directors

Note: The events on this calendar are not in-person meetings; all gatherings may choose to meet online. Check with your group leader for details or email office@ourredeemers.net.

JULY 2020

ourredeemers.net/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office Closed# 7pm Adult & Youth Choir (Online)	2 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Cottage Meeting 2020-21 Mission/ Operation Budget	3	4
5 11am Worship Service 4pm Cottage Meeting 2020-21 Mission/ Operation Budget	6 ... Holden @Home	7 7pm Cottage Meeting VAB & Budget	8 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Adult & Youth Choir (Online)	9 @Home ...	10 Holden @Home ...	11
12 11am Worship Service	13	14 7pm Executive Team Meeting	15 12pm R2H Meeting 12pm Life Masters Lunch 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Adult & Youth Choir (Online)	16 August Newsletter Content Deadline	17	18
1pm Congregational Meeting						
19 11am Worship Service 2-7pm Ballard Sunday Dinner	20	21 ... Vacation Bible School ...	22 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Adult & Youth Choir (Online)	23	24	25
26 Sandwich Sunday 11am Worship Service	27 7pm Social Justice Meeting 7pm Faith Formation Team	28 7pm 	29 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Adult & Youth Choir (Online)	30	31	

#Staff devotes the first Wednesday of each month to professional development and planning.



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

return service requested

ANNUAL MEETING JULY 12

Join Our Redeemer's July 12th, 1pm
for the church's Annual Congregational
Meeting. Prepare for the meeting
and practice how to vote on Zoom by
attending Cottage Meetings up to the
meeting date. See page 5 for details.

Dear Sibbs in Faith,

A couple of weeks ago I informed Pastors Gretchen and Kathy and the Social Justice Team, that I had been accepted to a one-year residency in Chaplaincy at Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville, IL. I am excited for the movement of God in my life this represents and also the possibility of a longer term sustainable career into the future. This is all a discernment process and I welcome your prayers as I walk forward into this new possibility. I expect it to be beautiful, fearful, challenging, and satisfying. It is an excellent program.



You are my people, my home church, and will remain that. My hope is to spend a year in Chicago and then return to my home in Ballard, better equipped and with my clarity. I am grateful for your warmth and friendship, the many ways you continue to teach me, and the gift of working for God's shalom alongside you.

May peace with justice prevail in and through you,

Shannon Beck
Social Justice Coordinator

P.S. There is an active search going on now to find a new Outreach Coordinator to take my place. Stay tuned!



Follow Us on Instagram!

We are on Instagram! Follow us and see what exciting things are happening around the church. @ourredeemersballard



Like Us on Facebook!

DO YOU LIKE OUR REDEEMER'S? THEN LIKE OUR REDEEMER'S FACEBOOK PAGE! An easy way to invite and engage your friends.