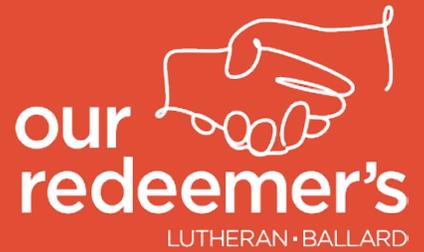


JULY - AUGUST 2022



# TheVisitor

**ORDINARY TIME.**  
Reconnect with  
your family, your  
friends, and your  
church community  
this summer!



**A Community in the Model of Christ**

## From the Pastor...

Hello Everyone!

I am delighted to join this amazing community at Our Redeemer's during this transition journey!!

Let me introduce myself, and share what I'll be up to among you. My wife and I moved to the area in 2015, from the Twin Cities, where she began her call as pastor at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Renton (yes, the same congregation pastor Gretchen came from a few years back, how cool is that?!), and where I began serving at the synod office. We have two children, Derek and Grace; our son will be a senior at California Lutheran University, is on the golf team and is studying music production; after high school our daughter decided to work at a piercing shop, is loving her social life with friends at UW, and especially enjoying the money she's saving from her fantastic tips. Personally, I enjoy hot yoga, working out, getting my steps in, listening to beautiful music, and thoughtful conversations. I will be offering three areas of leadership among you: 1) facilitating the transition process, 2) assisting pastor Gretchen with worship leadership by preaching twice a month, and, 3) partnering with the adult education team.

Currently we are in the process of gathering the transition team, and will be meeting for the first time in July. This meeting will involve getting some clarity, and scope of what is involved in the transition process.

**The gist of it involves taking some time to really listen well to where you are as a congregation, your hopes, expectations and dreams, and with a lens to listening to what future God is leading you to engage together as God's people.**

This is, as I understand it, discernment work. I have invited the transition team to consider this task as more than merely a volunteer opportunity, but a ministry of the congregation. Discernment is also more than decision making work; it is a spiritual formation process whereby we attend patiently and audaciously to what God is up to among us, who then begins to form us in God's preferred future.

So, no matter who you are, and where you are able to be involved during this transition process, I would invite you to imagine yourself a part of this ministry, and discernment process. Within a short time, the transition team will be pulling together focus groups to begin listening and taking notes on a variety of emphases yet to be determined. This is an open-ended process, one of discovery, which means we don't know yet what we will hear bubbling up among us. The only confidence we do have is the trust that God is already among you, waiting to be heard with more clarity about where you are now, and what kind of leadership and sustainability structure supports your emerging future.

On my end, I will keep you in my prayers as I get to know you better. Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself to me!

**When I facilitate the transition team I will continually ask the God questions: What is God up to? What do you hear God saying among us? What partnerships do you hear God calling us into? Where do you hear God's future emerging in light of who you are?**

When I lead worship, I will preach the challenging, and liberating, love of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, hoping to enlarge our imaginations for where God is blowing among us. And when I participate in some learning time with y'all, I trust we will be able to engage in some thoughtful reflection as a necessary part of discernment.



To God be the glory for this transition time!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Hahn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Pastor David Hahn

# July & August at Our Redeemer's

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

2 FROM THE PASTOR

4 WORSHIP & MUSIC

4 FAITH FORMATION

5 SOCIAL JUSTICE

8 COMMUNITY

## OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor  
pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net
- David Hahn, Transition Facilitator  
pastordavid@ourredeemers.net
- Phillipa Dugaw, Volunteer Coordinator  
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- Jordan Holt, Nursery Attendant
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director  
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- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator  
administrator@ourredeemers.net

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.



**July 3, Sunday**

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**  
**7 PM - Holden Evening Prayer | Sanctuary**

July 4, Monday

Independence Day - Church Closed

July 5, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting

July 9, Saturday

9 AM - Noon - Transition Team Meeting

**July 10, Sunday**

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**  
**7 PM - Holden Evening Prayer | Sanctuary**  
11:30 AM - Social Justice Meeting

July 11, Monday

9 AM - Quilters | Fellowship Hall

July 12, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting  
7 PM - Executive Team Meeting

July 13, Wednesday

7 PM - Faith Formation Team Meeting

**July 17, Sunday**

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**  
**2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner**  
**7 PM - Holden Evening Prayer | Sanctuary**

July 18, Monday  
HOLDEN VILLAGE WEEK

9 AM - Quilters | Fellowship Hall

July 19, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting  
7 PM - Council Meeting  
7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates

**July 24, Sunday**

**10 AM - Summer Worship**  
**7 PM - Holden Evening Prayer | Sanctuary**

July 25, Monday

9 AM - Quilters | Fellowship Hall

July 26, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting

**July 31, Sunday**  
HEALING SERVICE

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**  
**7 PM - Holden Evening Prayer | Sanctuary**

August 1, Monday

9 AM - Quilters | Fellowship Hall

August 2, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting

August 6, Saturday

9 AM - Liturgical Arts Team

**August 7, Sunday**

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**  
**7 PM - Holden Evening Prayer | Sanctuary**

August 8, Monday

9 AM - Quilters | Fellowship Hall

August 9, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting

**August 14, Sunday**

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**  
12 PM - "See No Stranger" Book Discussion | Zoom  
**7 PM - Holden Evening Prayer | Sanctuary**

August 15, Monday

9 AM - Quilters | Fellowship Hall

August 16, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting  
7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates

**August 21, Sunday**  
WELCOMING WISDOM

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**  
11 AM - Welcoming Wisdom Brunch  
2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner  
**7 PM - Holden Evening Prayer | Sanctuary**

August 22, Monday

9 AM - Quilters | Fellowship Hall

August 23, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting

**August 28, Sunday**

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**  
12 PM - "See No Stranger" Book Discussion | Zoom  
**7 PM - Holden Evening Prayer | Sanctuary**

August 29, Monday

9 AM - Quilters | Fellowship Hall



# Worship and Music

**Summer Worship**  
**10:00am Sunday Worship**  
**7:00pm Sunday Evening Prayer**  
**June 26 - September 4**

**Sundays**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Holden Evening Prayer**

For summer we have shifted to **one service on Sunday mornings at 10 am** and added **7 pm Holden Evening Prayer**. Our 10 am services feature special music from various musicians in the congregation and encourage family participation. We will resume two morning services on September 11th on "Kickoff Sunday."

**About Holden Evening Prayer:** At 7:00 pm on Sunday evenings this summer we will gather in the sanctuary informally to sing and pray Holden Evening Prayer together. This brief service (20 minutes) is wonderfully singable, peaceful, and transcendent. You are invited and encouraged to attend. Young families, put your kids in their pajamas and let Pastor Gretchen and Karen Lee sing them a lullaby of prayer and blessing.



# Faith Formation

**Save These Dates:**  
**September 10 - Saturday**  
**Family BBQ Fellowship Event**

**September 11 - Sunday**  
**1:00 pm - Confirmation**  
**Orientation and Exploration**

**September 11 - Sunday**  
**Faith Formation Start Up!**  
**Sprouts, O-Rock, Middle School, Confirmation,**  
**Adult Faith Formation and more!**

**September Kickoff!**  
**September 10 & 11**



# Social Justice



## Instill New Life into Ballard Sunday Dinners!

LINK: <https://rb.gy/tuwavk>

A small team of committed Our Redeemer's members has kept Ballard Sunday Dinner going for the past few years. They need to rest!

Our goal is to fill up ALL opportunities to help feed our hungry neighbors for the next six months, with a particular emphasis on finding NEW team members. **We'd especially appreciate new people signing up to co-lead once in the next six months.**

Find a friend, sign up on Our Redeemer's Volunteer Sign-Up Genius in the tab called "Ballard Sunday Dinner" (<https://rb.gy/tuwavk>) and we will mentor you (if you want) in planning a meal for 35, shopping, and leading in cooking. **We'd also be delighted to get 15 NEW people to cook or clean in these next 6 months.** Try it—it's fun and rewarding!

## Interested in Books? Tutoring? Racial Justice? Attend an Advocates Meeting

Join the Racial Justice Advocates meetings and help plan opportunities to act for racial justice. Many ideas are being formed by the group - including creating an OR library collection of youth and children's books on justice. You are invited to join in! The group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays on Zoom, 7:15-8:30 pm. Summer meetings are on:

- Tuesday, July 19, 7:15 pm
- Tuesday, August 16, 7:15 pm
- Tuesday, September 6, 7:15 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://rb.gy/z9n9xf>. All are welcome!

## Reflections on Service from Sonja Braasch

During Social Justice Storytelling in the fall, Sonja Braasch inspired us with her reflections on acts of service she has been involved in, and how they connected to her faith. We share her words on our website. Her reflections begin with:

*"In the past, I have had the pleasure to be involved in the annual Thanksgiving dinners for those without homes, working on making trails safer at Carkeek Park and singing Christmas carols at the local assisted-living facilities. This year, I assisted with setting up food and tables, and distributing sleeping bags at Edible Hope for Thanksgiving. To me faith is taking action!"*

*Faith means God is calling you into a relationship with God and your neighbor. It is also being open to engaging in these relationships in our own way, as an expression of hope."*

READ MORE HERE: <https://ourredeemers.net/reflections>.



*See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* by Valarie Kaur.

## Summer Book Read Discussions of See No Stranger

Sunday, August 14 & 18, Noon-1:30 PM | In-Person & [Zoom](#)

This summer as a congregation we will read Valarie Kaur's *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*. You can find this book at the library or any bookstore in print or audio book. We also have copies at church to buy or borrow.

We invite you to join Racial Justice Advocates to discuss this phenomenal book. We will have two separate discussion dates. Come to just one or both! Dana Wright will facilitate a discussion in person in the Fellowship Hall and Marie Brissette will facilitate a discussion on Zoom. Please join us whether you are in town or away!

Discussions will take place:

- Sunday, August 14th, noon to 1:30 pm (in-person and on [Zoom](#))
- Sunday, August 28th, noon to 1:30 pm (in-person and on [Zoom](#))

View the Discussion Question at <https://ourredeemers.net/summer-book-read>.



## TOOLS TO SPREAD CLIMATE ACTIVISM

All of us care about climate change. Most of us believe it is a real and immediate crisis...

**Q:**

**“What can we do?”** We are not climate scientists, so other than reducing our own carbon footprint, what else can we do? Answering that question is the point of this exercise. This is all about sharing with others the following links which are tools that empower people to take action.

**A:**

**Watch the following video shorts to get started.** In 25 minutes, you will have a better idea about how to advocate on behalf of the planet.



**Greta Thunberg** shook up the US and many other countries with her clear and unmistakable voice describing how much climate trouble we are leaving for younger generations. In this video she discusses solutions within our grasp. <https://bit.ly/3kDQGBJ> (3:40 min)

**Project Drawdown** ([www.drawdown.org](http://www.drawdown.org)) is a primary source of the most recent research into known methods of drawing carbon out of the atmosphere. Get an overview of the project. <https://bit.ly/3w6wz4B> (12:11 min)



**Four Levels of Action:** Pachamama Alliance organizer Will Grant talks about four different levels of action which we must understand so we can organize effectively. <https://bit.ly/3LY3Vtb> (7:35 min)

**2040:** Australian filmmaker Damon Gameau made this hopeful documentary to bring to life the solutions for reducing carbon from Project Drawdown’s research. Buy or rent the film by doing a Google search. Watch the trailer here: <https://bit.ly/3FfmCG3> (2:15 min)



### What’s next?

**1.**

**Use a Carbon Tracker:** BrightAction has developed a tool for groups to track their members’ carbon footprint. Episcopal Church members can go to [www.SustainIslandHome.org](http://www.SustainIslandHome.org) to get started. For other organizations, go to [www.brightaction.app](http://www.brightaction.app) to set up your organization’s account.

**2.**

**Get into Action:** Find an “accountability buddy” so you can get into action together. Look at the many categories of action on [www.drawdown.org](http://www.drawdown.org) and make a list of issues that interest you, then Google local or national groups working in that area to see how you can contribute.

**3.**

**Spread Awareness:** The primary thing we ALL can do is spread AWARENESS... Send this document to your friends, family, and groups to which you belong. Be open to speaking to groups and use this flyer as a template for taking action.



**Congratulations, you are now a Climate Activist!**

Scan the QR code to access this flyer online

Good luck, and let us know how you are doing:  
Libby Kelleher Carr – [libbycarr007@gmail.com](mailto:libbycarr007@gmail.com) or 425-223-8556

**SAINT MARK’S CATHEDRAL CREATION CARE MINISTRY**



# Social Justice

**Many of these school kits go to children who are refugees or are internally displaced.**

According to the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees, 89.3 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced by the end of 2021 as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order. **Among them are nearly 27.1 million refugees, around HALF of whom are under the age of 18.**

The top five countries hosting refugees (totaling 9.9 million) are Turkey (the highest, with 3.8 million), Colombia, Uganda, Pakistan and Germany.



## What Social Justice Organizations Did Your Offerings Support this Year?

LINK: <https://ourredeemers.net/offerings>

Every year, Our Redeemer's tithes for service and social justice.

Three percent of our offerings are distributed to organizations chosen by the Social Justice Team. We thought you'd like to know where these donations went in the past year.

Use the link above to learn more.

## Shop Back-to-School Sales for Neighbors Around the World!

Let's create 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief again this summer/fall! A basket will be available in the narthex starting in August for you to bring in school supplies. Then in September we will assemble them to share with children around the world. None of these should have a religious symbol, US flag or patriotic symbol.

**Back-to-School Shopping List**

- 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; **NO loose leaf paper. This is our TOP priority item, as four go into each kit. Sharon recommends Target or Fred Meyer.**
- 30-centimeter rulers, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- Pencil sharpeners
- Pairs of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- UNsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Black or blue ballpoint pens - **NO gel ink**
- Boxes of 24 crayons
- 2 1/2" erasers





## Celebrating July Birthdays!

- |                     |                           |                        |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Asher Nyhus       | 15 Elizabeth Rallo        | 25 Amy Borgmeyer       |
| 1 Amy McDonald      | 15 Laura Stenbridge       | 25 Frank Peters        |
| 2 Bob Carlson       | 17 Harold Laurence        | 25 Charlotte Wallstrom |
| 2 Sharon Longaker   | 18 Riley Hammett          | 27 Rainer Germann      |
| 3 Jerri Harden      | 18 Sandy Haug             | 27 Leslie Wander       |
| 6 Ryan Mertes       | 18 Griffin Kukowski       | 27 Margaret Wetter     |
| 9 Steve Cromwell    | 18 Betsy McGregor         | 27 Janet Woodfield     |
| 9 Joanna Elizondo   | 18 Laura Simmonds         | 28 Mateo Frantz        |
| 10 Mike Hlastala    | 19 David McBride          | 28 Kay Sterner         |
| 10 Ainsley Tung     | 21 Sally Parker-Henderson | 29 Emily Forssen       |
| 11 Trevor Leffler   | 22 Sandy Box              | 30 Craig Myers         |
| 13 Anika Michaelsen | 22 America Mejia          |                        |

## and... August Birthdays!

- |                    |                     |                      |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Betty Goble      | 14 Niels Running    | 22 Leif Loklingholm  |
| 3 Theresa Forssen  | 15 Isla Parrott     | 23 Audrey Gundacker  |
| 4 Meagan Minus     | 16 Norman Hill      | 24 Rebecca Butler    |
| 4 Shirley Smith    | 18 Lee Cayton       | 26 Chris Glover      |
| 5 Damon Knight     | 18 Carl Christenson | 26 Sue Johnson       |
| 6 Sue Schoolcraft  | 18 Doug Dixon       | 28 Nico Fidis        |
| 7 Jennifer Gleeson | 18 Keith Hansen     | 28 Alicia Jancola    |
| 8 Matt Neill       | 20 Amy Hammett      | 29 Cindy Ege         |
| 9 Judah Kukowski   | 20 Julie Josund     | 29 Stephanie Running |
| 10 *Jean Kippen    | 20 John Somm        | 30 John Wilson       |
| 10 Ann McIntyre    | 21 Holly Gundacker  | 31 Anna DeTurk       |

\*Birthday Blessings To Jean Kippen Who Is Celebrating her 90+ Birthday In August!

*We give thanks for the life of Ruby Lenore Brantner- June 6, 2022 (b. January 30, 1917). We pray that God will bring comfort to those who grieve.*

*Is your name missing from the birthday list? Let us know your birth date, and we'll make sure you're included on this list and in our database. Email [office@ourredeemers.net](mailto:office@ourredeemers.net) with your information.*



# Community

## Caring Community Team

The Caring Community Team shares comfort and support through visits, meals, cards, communion, and prayer shawls. The team's next meeting is on Saturday, July 16, 2022 at 10:00 am. Please contact Linda Carbone to discuss how you might get involved (lindac19@comcast.net).

## Welcoming Wisdom is Back! by Julie Vannoy Sunday, August 21, 11:00 AM | Our Redeemer's

### We plan to be back together again for Welcoming Wisdom 2022!

It's been two years since we've been able to be together to celebrate those in our congregation who are "the older and wiser" - those with 80+ years under their belts. So very many experiences and so much wisdom to celebrate and share!

Plans are currently underway to be able to reconvene this August, get reacquainted in person, and to celebrate together! **All are invited to a light lunch after our 10:00 am service on Sunday, August 21st** to eat, enjoy some laughter, music, and time together.

Note: Sometimes people get confused and think the brunch is only for our elderly population. That is far from the truth! It isn't any fun to be especially honored if there is no one there to do the honoring... Our Welcoming Wisdom event is for everyone!



**JULY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**  
Get details and schedules by clicking [here](#) or using the QR code at right.

Once on the volunteer page you can toggle between the various needs using the tabs at the top of the page.

Not sure where or how to volunteer at Our Redeemers, [click here](#).

For more questions, comments, suggestions: Contact Phillipa Dugaw at [volunteer@ourredeemers.net](mailto:volunteer@ourredeemers.net).

## July/August 2022 | Quilters by Phillipa Dugaw, Volunteer Coordinator

It's amazing the number of unique and wonderful things that we do around here. As I sit at 3 months into this job, I'm learning about so many ways that groups of people come together to make a difference. **Our Redeemer's depends on their community and truly appreciates every single one of you that steps up and shows up** - from our Caring Team, Welcome Team, Liturgical Arts Team, Finance Team, Nomination Team, Faith Formation Leads, Bible Study Lead - just to name a few.



Scan to Volunteer!

**For this month let's put a spotlight on our Quilters.** You need to come see these ladies in action. They know how to have fun, connect, and make some beautiful quilts. The quilts they make are for Lutheran World Relief and some quilts are even given to the high school graduates at our church. The quilts represent dedication, commitment, comfort, joy, and love.

If you're interested in learning how to quilt or maybe you have some experience, you too can join this team because everyone is welcome! **The quilters meet on Monday mornings 9:00 am -noon** and if that time doesn't work for you, then ask how you can help from home, because guess what? That's a thing!

Now, if you see any of these wonderful women around, say thank you and get a little curious about what they do. They are **Sharon Longaker, America Meija, Nancy Crowe-Paulsen, Nancy Parks, Nancy Hiraoka, Anne Lewis, Joanna Elizondo and JoAnn Gibson**. (JoAnn is a Master Quilter, and just retired at the age of 90!)



# Community



*Pastor Gretchen & Elizabeth at the 2021 E-Cycle Event*

**We are grateful to Elizabeth for her heart for justice and service, and her devoted time she has spent among us. It is no small thing to get to know a congregation in the midst of a pandemic, and she has thrown herself into it with great care.**

**We are thankful for the gifts she has shared with us over the past year and a half, and wish her all the best in her work with the Faith Action Network, and continuing to care for her wonderful family. Godspeed, Elizabeth, and thank you!**

## Farewell Letter by Elizabeth Dickinson

Dear Our Redeemers friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I tell you that I will be leaving the Social Justice Coordinator position. I had anticipated a longer time with you all, but significant family needs are limiting my capacity to focus and do all that is needed to support your many service and social justice ministries. My last day with you will be July 10.

I have treasured relationships with you, even as some were just emerging. I have loved cooking, recycling, advocating, discerning, meeting, worshiping, auctioning, learning, sorting clothes, making LWR kits, mourning and celebrating together! I have appreciated your warmth, welcome, and the stories you have shared about what brings life and hope in your social justice commitments. I have learned a lot from you about sustaining community.

Together we have lifted up the urgency of racial and indigenous justice, voting rights, and gender justice. We have assembled kits and created beautiful quilts for refugees and people experiencing disasters around the world. Our parking lot and Fellowship Hall have sheltered numerous people who would have otherwise been unsafe on the streets. We have recycled electronics and Styrofoam and given gently-used clothes new life. We are developing new earth care and school tutoring plans. And we have shared warm meals, warm hats, and warm sleeping bags with many in Ballard. I hope you rejoice in all you have done!....

I hope our relationships will continue in some form. I intend to return for the racial justice book discussions in August and for occasional Ballard Sunday Dinner preparation. No doubt I will find Styrofoam to recycle with you! And I will continue to reach out to the Social Justice Team to share opportunities for joining other faith communities in raising your voices for justice...

With much love, Elizabeth.

*Read the full text of Elizabeth's letter at <https://ourredeemers.net/farewell>.*



### Opening Doors: Honoring Your Pledge

God is doing amazing things at Our Redeemer's and your generous giving is helping us meet our goals. Your faithful gifts towards your pledge strengthen our community and ministry to the world. Thank you!

To give, go to  
<https://ourredeemers.net/donate>.





# Community

## Spring Event Photos



*Faith Formation Appreciation*



*June Baptisms*



*Synod Attendees*



*Grads Celebration*

### Art in the Garden-August 6

The Ballard P-Patch's free annual community festival on August 6 will feature artist booths, beer garden, kids' activities, bake sale, wine-grab fundraiser, and more! Summer is peak season for the garden - the perfect time to visit, enjoy what artists and musicians have to offer, and celebrate community!





2400 NW 85th Street  
Seattle, WA 98117

[www.ourredeemers.net](http://www.ourredeemers.net)  
206-783-7900

**return service requested**

**SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**10 AM Service**

In-Person or Online:

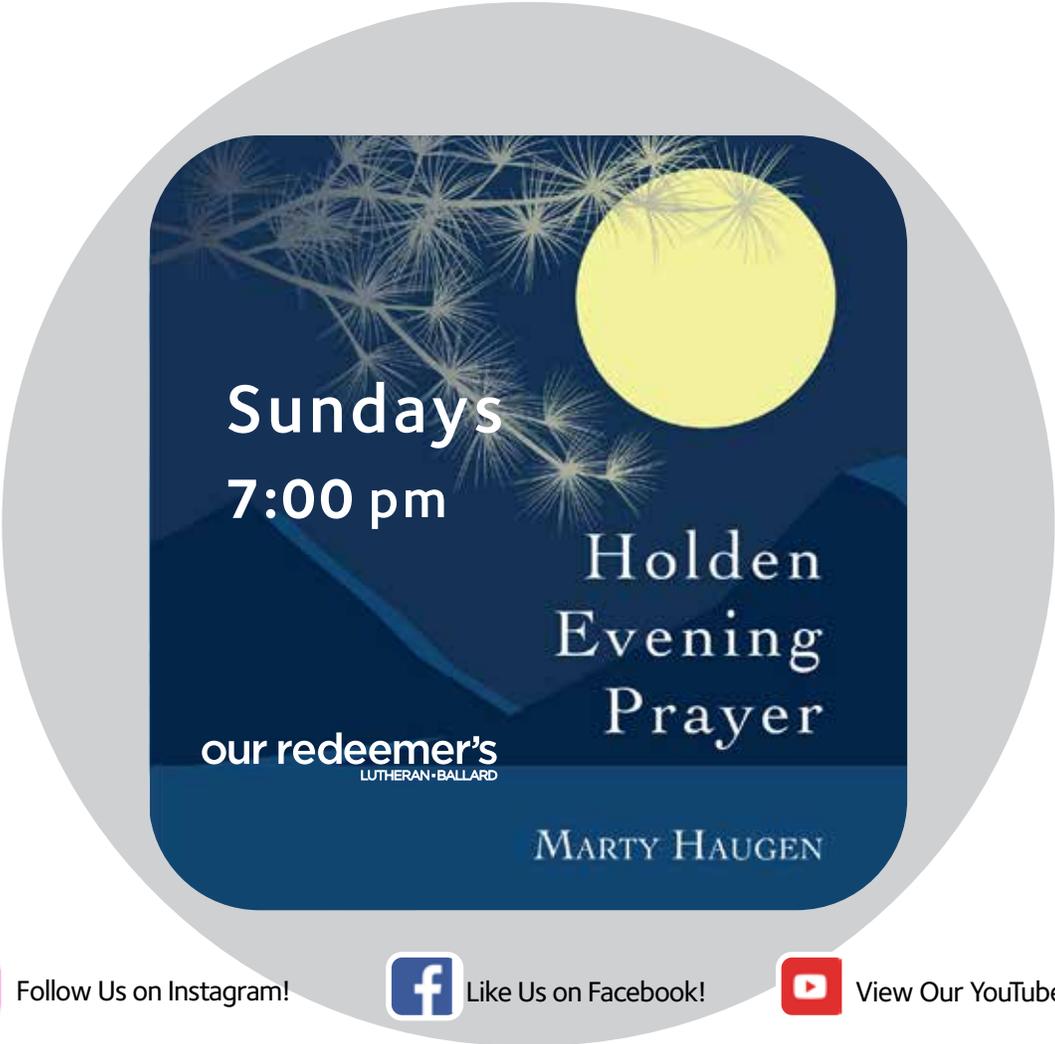
Facebook:

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

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

**7 PM - Holden Evening Prayer**

In-Person



Follow Us on Instagram!



Like Us on Facebook!



View Our YouTube Channel