

JUNE 2021

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

*The*Visitor



E-CYCLING - JUNE 12
ELECTRONICS + STYROFOAM

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A Community in the Model of Christ

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*Cover: Help protect our fragile earth by recycling your electronics and styrofoam June 12th at Our Redeemer's parking lot.
Below: Sprouts and friends wore red for Pentecost on May 23rd.*



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From the Pastor...

Well friends. We are tired. We are anxious. We are ready. We are so not ready. We have grief. We have hope. We have run out of new hobbies and come to the end of Netflix. We are many things right now, and have become creatures that are accustomed to uncertainty. And we're not sure that we like it. We are complex and challenging. We long to be simple.

When I think of where we were a year ago, and how much has passed since then, it seems like so much has happened, and at the same time it seems like every day has been very much the same day, over and over.

The “pandemic era” has felt like a weird stasis trap in a parallel world.

For example, I'm pretty sure that last year was 2019. But it wasn't. More than once, I've found myself thinking about things like VBS and saying “Well, last year we...” and realizing ... it was really two years ago.

We have finally reached the point where we are starting to make plans – concerts, trips, weddings, gatherings – but not without some trepidation. The curve toward an end of the pandemic seems solid enough to give us some hope, but we're also watching what's been happening in India and around the world with rapt attention.

We're used to getting cut down. It seems foolish not to expect it.

I've been following an artist on Instagram named Scott Erickson, and I want to share the piece of his art with you (above right). It's called “Another Chance.” I showed it to my son, and asked him what he saw.

“Momma, that's been cut down. A lot. (pause)

(Me) “Well, we just keep growing no matter what, I guess....Do you think it hurts to get cut down?”, I asked.

“Yes, momma. But we still grow”, he said.

The artist's note on this piece says, “*May I never grow tired of starting over or helping others do the same. My hope is always in renewal and resurrection.*”

The past year (two years? which year?) has been full of fragile attempts at growing, and then getting chopped down. Of planning and hoping, and then putting those plans away. Of building up energy and relationships, and then watching them disintegrate. However, we are a people of hope, and renewal, and resurrection.



We are a community that has dug deep in these times and created meaningful programming to not only sustain relationships but build them up.

We had 20 people officially join our church in 2021. That's amazing! We have undertaken a necessary and stunning renovation of our building, taking advantage of being out of our space and making something new grow and sprout in what for many has been a fallow season. We have been mindful of making sure that there is rest and prayer and sabbath in this immensely trying time.

It's hard, to keep starting over. To keep trying, and reaching, and helping others to find their hope. But that is what we do. That is who we are.

As we approach summer and health, and down-time in the sun, it is my hope that we can once again send forth shoots of hope and joy, reaching out to others to lift them along with us. After all, the resurrection and the hope of new life is ours in Christ.



Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Golden Hestey

Pandemic Transition Team Update

Your Pandemic Transition Team met on May 17th to discuss the new guidelines from CDC regarding mask wearing, as well as to discuss the governor's anticipated lifting of COVID restrictions.

We are so hopeful that the pandemic is coming to an end. As a congregation, we all miss being in church together, singing and praising God. We also know that we are in an unusual situation with our church building being under construction. This team has taken the county and state guidelines and requirements into consideration (see resources below) and are aware of the trends and concerns of the people in our community, as well as the desire to move forward.

While the guidelines from the Governor definitely allow us to gather, the workarounds we need to accomplish in order to have in-person worship that is live streamed on Sunday morning are many. Outdoor worship involves a whole new level of volunteer involvement and technological pivoting that while possible, is not small. We have worked together with the staff and outlined a plan below detailing what would be needed for outdoor worship to happen, and a timeline to accomplish it.

For the month of June, we have decided to stay the course with our two current worship services: 11 AM Sunday mornings on Zoom and Facebook Live, and 7 PM Thursday Evening Prayer in our parking lot. This will allow us the time needed to consider the following:

In consideration of the governor's potential lifting of COVID restrictions at the end of the month, our team has decided to see if there is interest and the necessary volunteer capacity to attempt an in-person, live-streamed, outdoor worship service on Sunday, July 25 at 9 AM.

To make this happen, we need the following humans:

- **Volunteer Lead:** one human; 7:30 AM–11 AM, plus prep work. You know where everything and everyone goes.
- **Set up:** 4 humans; 7:30 AM arrival, heavy lifting involved. (Sound system, staging, altar, etc.)
- **Ushering:** 2 humans; 8:30 AM arrival, no heavy lifting. (Contact tracing sign-in, bulletin distribution, offering, helping people find what they need.)
- **Tech/AV:** 4 humans; this position is KEY. Working ahead of time to practice streaming and sound quality, investigating equipment options and necessary upgrades, determining our best streaming options, and providing that information to the staff.
- **Tear Down:** 4 humans; 10 AM –11 AM. Heavy lifting! Put absolutely everything back where it goes.
- **Musicians:** (4 humans) & **Altar Care:** (1 human); 7:45 AM–10:30 AM. Making music, and setting up the altar and communion supplies for worship.

If you are willing and able to help fill some of these positions, please go to this link, and sign up:
<https://rb.gy/rswptb>

This has been a long and exhausting season for all of us (particularly for families with children at home and educators!). We are hopeful that fall will bring a better sense of normalcy to all of our lives! We are thankful for your patience both with our construction process, and the need for extreme caution and safety.

Peace to all, and thanks from your Pandemic Transition Team: Pastor Gretchen Mertes, Karie Stearns (Parish Administrator), Kim Ward, Michael Hammett, Julie Vannoy, Heather Cook, and Sam Altenberger.

Resources:

King County COVID-19 Data: <https://rb.gy/7uxcds>

Washington State Religious and Faith-based Organizations COVID-19 Requirements: <https://rb.gy/vprbwu>

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



All are Welcome!

to attend Compline Service
each Thursday thru August.

Location:
Our Redeemer's Parking Lot

Bring your own chairs and masks
for this socially distant 20 minute
service. (This service is in-person only.)

Online/Phone Worship Instructions

We gather each Sunday online at 11:00 AM. Here are three ways to connect.

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

By Phone. Call 1 206 337 9723, and then enter this number when prompted: 822 691 346. This method only lets you listen, but it works well.

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

Our Welcome Minister will be monitoring the chat and make sure that our worship leaders get your questions. The bulletin each Sunday will be available on our website for download at www.ourredeemers.net/virtual-worship/.

Centering Prayer

Silence can be one of the most healing realities there is. When we're not used to it, we may feel awkward or uncomfortable, but even so, the quiet of a night without jets in the sky or Netflix in the background is often just what our souls need.

Every Wednesday, the
gift of 30 minutes of
quiet prayer is yours.

Zoom Information:
<https://rb.gy/djll3o>

Join by phone call:
+1 (206) 337-9723

Meeting ID: 984 1700 9634
Passcode: 132934

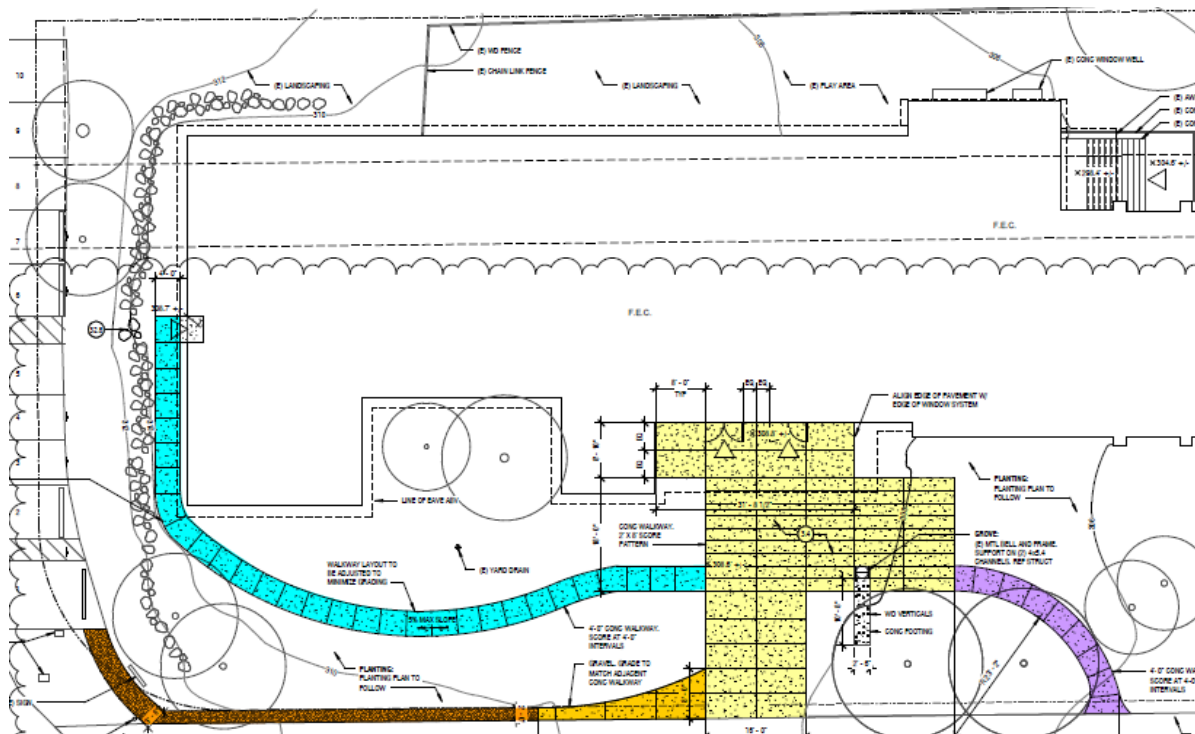
BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION

What Happened Last Month: Renovation Updates

May 1, 2021 - Waterproofing and insulation were completed on the below grade walls for the library. Backfill material has been placed and compacted to fill the hole left by the library removal. This work has allowed installation of the lower windows in the Narthex and the Sanctuary to begin. They are beautiful and the introduction of light into spaces is transformative. LZL also uncovered the stained-glass windows this week to facilitate drywall tape/mud/texture. Protection may be reinstalled for painting, acoustical panel installation, lighting and flooring, but it was a treat to see these beautiful windows shine and bring their warmth back into the Sanctuary. Painting is underway in the Administration and Narthex areas. Main level Restroom flooring will begin next week; ceilings, and the wood storefront windows that divide the Administration and Narthex areas will occur later in May. At the lower level, paint is complete, flooring in the Restrooms is nearly complete, and the exterior concrete walk was poured last week. Restroom fixtures, the drinking fountain, and electrical trim will begin later in May.



Our site plan for sidewalks, entry plaza, and landscape beds has been finalized. This work will occur towards the end of the summer but work on grading, irrigation, and site preparation will begin in late May, early June.



continued

BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION

May 17, 2021 - The wood storefronts are nearly complete, and they are beautiful. The trusses are sanded, and the new wood floor began installation on Monday the 17th. The reclaimed pews are being transformed into wall paneling and should begin this week. Once the floor is completed, the Sanctuary will be painted, and acoustical panels will be installed. The contractor will be holding off on the sanding and sealing of the floor until after these tasks are complete. Lighting and A/V equipment will follow once all the "messy" work is complete.



*Narthex / Admin Storefront System
(Open areas will be filled with reclaimed pew wood and intermittent glass panels will receive an opaque film)*



Sanded Trusses, Full Storefront Systems, Wood Flooring



Accessible Ramp ready for Wood Flooring



Sanctuary South Wall

continued next page

BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION

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PROJECT STATUS

Schedule: No Change – Church access late summer 2021

Date	Construction Contingency	Project Contingency
7/12/20	\$217,854	\$67,153
9/1/20	\$217,854	\$57,415
9/30/20	\$217,854	\$57,415
10/15/20	\$199,609	\$57,415
11/14/20	\$170,121	\$61,719
12/1/20	\$167,164	\$61,719
12/15/20	\$160,570	\$61,179
1/15/21	\$142,045	\$61,179
1/31/21	\$142,045	\$61,179
2/15/21	\$142,045	\$61,179
3/4/21	\$145,724	\$54,518
3/17/21	\$143,940	\$54,518
4/2/21	\$129,579	\$54,443
4/17/21	\$115,552	\$53,730
4/30/21	\$114,089	\$43,730
5/17/21	\$105,635	\$43,730

Changes affecting the Project Cost Contingency:

- Credit card charges for piano storage and moving expenses.
- Land sale attorney invoice (from September '20 – missed during move).
- Adjusted cost for groundbreaking event.
- Adjusted costs for moving.
- Created line item for Utilities. Our Redeemer's pays utilities during construction (to avoid contractor markup). Our Redeemer's operational budget has been paying costs and this line item will reimburse operational budget since bills have been higher than anticipated by that budget.

NEW Charges reported in May 2021 against the Construction Contingency:

- East flat roofs repair to termination bars and waterproofing.
- Replace handrail on north stair (3 levels).
- Replace Narthex lighting.
- Construct platform for organ.
- Moved \$42K of \$50K site budget into construction contingency.
- Added flatwork to Fellowship Hall and from 85th to entry plaza.
- Site prep, grading, irrigation, landscape beds.
- Added sidewalk widening and sweep entry along 85th.



GOD'S CALL | OUR VISION

**SEE MORE OF WHAT'S
HAPPENING FOR YOURSELF...**
Visit our [website renovation
page](#) for the most current
construction videos, pictures,
and more!



FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation Thank-You

In a year with so many shifts and changes, we just wanted to say a huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who made faith formation possible for our congregation!

First of all, massive thanks to the continuing work that the folks on our Faith Formation Team have been doing. Thanks to monies received from our Fund-A-Need in 2018 (!!), we contracted with Vibrant Faith, a mentoring organization for congregations looking to re-vamp or improve their faith formation program. Through that work, and with Betsy McGregor's awesome grant writing skills, we qualified for a 5-year cohort training program to help us implement the vision that we are working toward. Amazing work! The team is: **Betsy McGregor** (lead), **Phillipa Dugaw**, **Dana Wright**, **Kari Guddal**, **Mandy Neill**, **Stephanie Fowler**, and **Sarah Uhlemann**. We look forward to seeing the fruition of all of your work in the near future.

Our classes have been limited this year, but Sprouts keeps on truckin', with 20 active 3-5 year olds, and lots of fun from their teachers: **Dana Wright**, **Kari Guddal**, and **Sienna Seyler**. Confirmation and Middle school ministries gave it a go for a while with faithful teachers and leaders **Michael Hammett** and **Betsy McGregor**, but foul weather foiled in-person meeting in the fall. We look forward to re-invigorating these programs in the near future!

We pulled off an amazing Christmas Pageant online with help from the **Hammett Family**, the **Jancola Family**, the **Tung Family**, the **Niedner family**, **Dave Eicke**, the **Brissette Family**, the **Wander family**, the **Kiggins Family**, and the **Fowler family**. Thank you thank you for your willingness to try something weird and different, and put it all out there for us! You are amazing.



This fall, we are hoping to start in our new building with a full slate of classes. One of our goals as a faith formation program is to work intergenerationally, and so we welcome volunteers of all ages and skill levels, high school through octogenarian, to consider serving the youth and littles of our congregation in this important ministry. If you are interested in testing out the waters, please contact [Betsy McGregor](#) and she will get you in the loop.

Meanwhile, adult faith formation also managed to have a rich and interesting menu of classes.

Thank you, **Carolyn Swanson**, for being our indefatigable and inspired Bible teacher, offering classes of that are always enlightening and engaging.

Contributing to our focus on "faith renovation" this year, as we renovate our building, **Rev. Alan Storey** visited us from South Africa on Zoom last fall. He taught, invited congregational conversation following his sermon on the core biblical story of the Exodus, which drew on his work with congregations against apartheid, and more recently, supporting refugees from Sudan. We also reflected on 3 classes recorded at Holden Village.

Our adult forums were so blessed by the gifts of **Dana Wright** and **Joshua Liljenstolpe**. Both have profoundly deep lives of faith, and years of inquisitive, passionate inquiry into the heart of the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Trinity which they shared with us over many weeks. Thank you so much, Dana and Joshua!

Adult Forum: How Do I Read the Bible?

This partnership with Dr. Judy Snack, NT Scholar, and members of Our Redeemer's and other congregations, will conclude soon. Join us! Sundays through June 13, 1:00 - 2:30 PM

[Zoom Link](#), Passcode "Adult", Meeting ID: 945 4145 3039



FAITH FORMATION

God's Story is the Story of Love... You are Invited!

The Faith Formation Team was formed to re-imagine Faith Formation for our youngest members at Our Redeemer's. We developed a vision which has been our guidepost for creating a vital and engaging Children and Youth program. COVID has caused us all to pause, yet in the case of the Faith Formation Team, it has allowed us the space and time we have needed plan a revitalized children's program which will debut along with our newly renovated building in September of 2021!

Relationships are the Foundation

Our program is based in relationship: Relationship to God, and relationship to each other. We know that one of the most powerful of relationships are those that are inter-generational. We invite members of all ages to be a part of this essential program. Each of our classes will have a teacher and host. The teacher will be imparting the selected curriculum for the day, while the host will greet each child and assist as needed in the classroom. **We need 3 teams of two for each grade level class** so that our children come to know many adult leaders in church but even more importantly, develop strong, positive relationships with each member of the teaching team.

We want our children to play an active role in our worship service. Our classes will be held between services. During the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM service we would include and schedule children to rotate in pairs or trios and deliver part of our worship service, such as the end of service blessing.

Fellowship

Fellowship is important for all! Children will begin each week with fellowship, music and snacks altogether before breaking into age group classes. Meanwhile, parents will have a place set aside for them to have a space for their own fellowship and conversation.

Supporting Families at Home

Faith Formation tools will be provided for families to continue faith practices at home throughout the week. Along with a family friendly bible, brief activities, discussion starters, and prayers, will be available and given to parents to continue the lessons of Sunday throughout the week.

Our New APP!

Families and volunteers can stay on top of all Children's Programming through our new app. This app will include the yearly calendar of events, the teacher/host calendar and messaging for different groups. Messaging will allow parents to communicate with each other to connect, to schedule and to ask questions.

We need your help with getting the spaces ready! We need help with preparing the classrooms! We have anonymous donors who have provided the funds needed to make our classrooms sparkle. Among the tasks we will need help with:

- Cleaning and preparing rooms for flooring
- Painting
- Decorating rooms by season (this will need to be done about every 2 months)
- Furniture movement and set up

Contact Pastor Gretchen if you can help out: pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net.





FAITH FORMATION

Are You Ready? Two VBS Offerings This Summer!

Two opportunities for young ones to participate in-person(!) in Vacation Bible School this summer are planned. Save these dates!

July 26-29

Together with Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church

www.prlc.org

Two identical sessions:

9:30-11 AM & 6:30-8 PM

Children 5-12 are invited to attend, and younger ones, too, with an adult companion. Cost is \$20/child (scholarships available). *More details to come!*

July 31 & August 14

Saturdays in Our Redeemer's Parking Lot

10 AM - Noon

Our Redeemer's is hosting VBS on two Saturdays for kids of all ages! We will have snacks, crafts, games, music, and stories set up in our parking lot for kids to come and have fun!

Just drop in! Everything will be safe and follow the mandates set out by the CDC.

We will need volunteers for all the stations, so let [Pastor Gretchen](#) know if you can help!

**HOP
SKIP
JUMP!**
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Grad Sunday - June 13th

On Sunday, June 13, we will celebrate our graduates this year – an extraordinary year to be sure!

If you have a graduate in your life (high school, college, or graduate school), please send their name, and degree received, to Pastor Gretchen (pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net), to be included in the Graduate Blessing on worship that day.

We are so proud of our graduates, and want to bless them in every way!

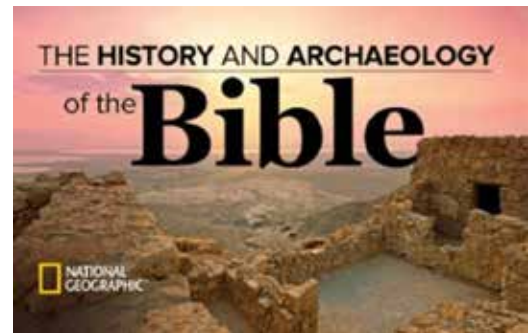


FAITH FORMATION

Wednesday Bible Study – The History and Archeology of the Bible by Carolyn Swanson

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM – Noon, on Zoom*

Unfortunately, once again – Israel and Palestine are fighting over land, an old, old story. This course offers an in-depth overview of the most important archaeological discoveries related to stories in the Bible, from Genesis to the Gospels. As in 2021, this news does not originate in a vacuum; each volume emerges in a specific time and place, within a distinct social, cultural, and literary milieu. In the process, these Bible stories were shaped by the most powerful civilizations of their time: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Greece, and the world of imperial Rome. It will be interesting in the eons to come how these lands will be described as they were shaped by the Western World, including in a large way, the United States of America. Each lesson is devoted to a particular division or book in the Judeo-Christian Bible. There are 24 lessons and, as you can see below, we are in the bottom half.



The last seven lessons address a number of groundbreaking discoveries related to the New Testament era. They follow the birth and adolescence of Jesus, the growth of his ministry, and a detailed reconstruction of the Passion, based on new archaeological findings in Jerusalem. The last lesson charts the rise of early Christianity. This course is deliberately presented from a nondenominational perspective. It is a fascinating study of history and an inspirational one of faith. And through it all the message of God's unrelenting pursuit of us, his creatures, because he misses us and loves us.

We will continue through the summer until we do lesson 24, at which time our attention will be drawn to another study—unknown to all, including me, Carolyn Swanson – cdkswan@gmail.com or 206-390-7732 (note a different email and telephone number than are in the church directory).

LESSONS IN JUNE:

- 15. The Empire of Alexander the Great – June 2
- 16. Judea in the Early Roman Empire – June 9
- 17. The Kingdom of Herod the Great – June 16
- 18. The World of the Gospels – June 23
- 19. The Birth of Jesus – June 30

If you would like to join us, or at least try it, please email me at cdkswan@gmail.com or call 206-390-7732. We meet at 10:30 each Wednesday morning and end promptly at noon. Our media is Zoom. I send the contact link each week to participants. We have about 10-12 faithful students. Join u



Theology on Tap

Tuesday, June 22, 7 PM

Join us for Theology on Tap on Tuesday, June 22nd at 7:00 PM. Grab your favorite beverage and snack and join us as we talk about the big theological questions or maybe the small ones, too. Whatever we choose as our topic, lively conversation will be had! Use the Zoom link below and please join use for conversation and fellowship.

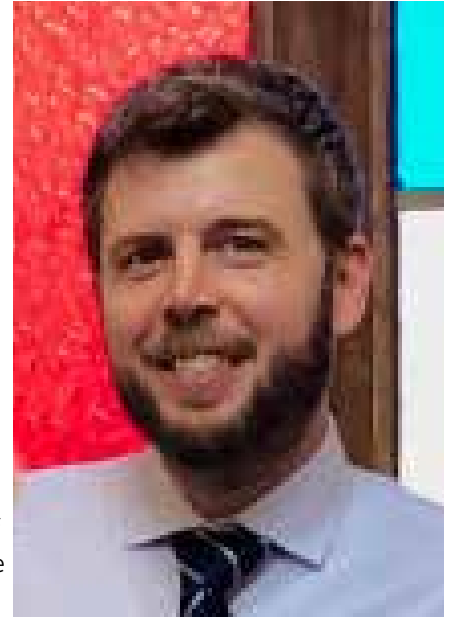
To connect with our event, use this Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/688478249>
All are welcome. We hope to see you there!



Our Redeemer's Council Corner | Member Bio - Terrence Rindler

Hello, I'm happy to have this opportunity to introduce myself as a member of the Our Redeemer's council. I have been on council for almost 3 years, and have been attending Our Redeemer's with my wife Lindsay since spring of 2011 (over 10 years!). We found our place in the church when we were still dating and decided to check out nearby churches together. I had grown up attending a Catholic church in Michigan, but hadn't regularly attended church as an adult. After visiting just once or twice, Pastor Steve Grumm reached out to us and made sure we felt welcome to come back. His initial outreach turned out to be reflective of everyone we met in the congregation and after participating in the Journey that fall, we decided to become members.

Fast forward 10 years, and we've made so many special memories in the church and with the Our Redeemer's family. We were married by Pastor Kathy in the sanctuary in July 2014, on what must have been one of the hottest days in recent memory. Both of our girls, Lena (6) and Maren (2) were baptized at Our Redeemer's. While we were initially drawn to the 11am service, where I appreciated the more traditional elements that reminded me of my Catholic background, we found a connection with the music of the informal service and became regulars at 9 AM. I am grateful I was able to contribute musically as a member of the Informal Ensemble with Beth Davis (former 9 AM music director) and Pastor Gretchen. We have also cherished the memories from Holden Village and value the friendships made with other young families at the church.



Professionally, I work in biotechnology as a process engineer supporting manufacturing for a new type of cancer treatment called chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR-T) therapy. I currently work for Bristol Myers Squibb and am very proud that we recently achieved FDA approval for a lymphoma therapy that I had been working on for the past 7 years. Outside of work, I spend most of my time with my family, doing "kid stuff" but when I get a chance I try to run, play guitar/piano, and someday I plan to resume my home-brewed beer operation.

When I was asked to consider joining the council 3 years ago, Morgan Fowler had reached out to me in case I had any questions. He explained that each meeting started with time for spiritual reflection and discussion before beginning the agenda. That aspect really appealed to me and I still appreciate the conversation and meaningful reflection which set the tone for the rest of our meeting. The challenges we have faced as a council have been intense at times, but I'm proud of our ability to stay true to the vision of the church and let it guide our decisions. I have learned a lot about leadership and faith from my fellow council members and from Pastors Gretchen and Kathy. It has been an honor to serve in this role alongside you.

As you may know, last summer we moved from Seattle to central New Jersey.

This move had been in the cards for a while, and it facilitated both an internal job transfer (for me) and brought us much closer to family (Lindsay is a NJ native). The very difficult decision to leave Seattle was made somewhat easier by the pandemic as we realized how important connections to family truly are. Fortunately, the virtual nature of worship and council activities have allowed us to continue as Our Redeemer's members for now. However, I'm not able to continue on council when my first term expires as we will look to join a local church once things fully open up here. I can tell you that Our Redeemer's sets the bar pretty high and it is going to make it difficult to select a new congregation. I am optimistic that we will find a new home and be able to bring some of the values we practiced at Our Redeemer's to our new environment.

Finally, we will be back to visit Seattle on a regular basis... I am really looking forward to worshiping in the new sanctuary with you and we will make the trek to Holden Village as well. Thank you all for the support as a church family, please stay in touch!



COMMUNITY

Council Governance Update - by Terrence Rindler

Vision of Ministry and Open Questions to Congregation

This year the council has been re-examining how we operate as a governing body for the church, using the book *Governance and Ministry* by Dan Hotchkiss as a guide. The book is an amazing resource and it highlights a number of areas where church councils can be more effective based on the author's research into "boards" of religious organizations and how they compare/contrast with governance in non-profits and corporations. One element that we are particularly excited about is engaging the congregation in conversation about the direction of our ministry via "open questions" that will prompt further discussion in multiple forums throughout the year.

An open question is a way for the council to open up to congregational influence by posing a few big, eye-opening questions that will help clarify our mission for the upcoming year.

These questions can't be answered with a simple yes or a no, and are intended to prompt the congregation to engage in further discussion, debate and follow-up questions that will clarify the goals for our ministry moving forward. As of today the council is finalizing the 2-3 questions we want to pose to the congregation in 2021 and then will work on the forums to start to engage in this important dialog. Stay tuned for updates and ways you can participate!

Our Church Council Is Looking for a Few Good People - How About You?

It's an exciting time for our congregation, our capacity to serve God and our neighbors, and for expanding our ability to offer grace and hope to all people - without exception!

Would you like to help lead Our Redeemer's into the future, aligning our ministries with God's vision (and our strategic plan), and being responsible for the financial and property matters that support our mission? Do you have patience for consensus-building, differences of opinion and, yes, on occasion, long (but productive) meetings?

If so, please check out this link: <https://ourredeemers.net/join-the-church-council> (link will be live after June 3rd), which has more information about this crucial role in our congregation, some questions for you to reflect on and forward to our Nominating Task Force (contact info to be provided at link).

We hope to increase the diversity of council ages, gender identities, preferred worship time(!), skills and gifts. If you find yourself pausing to consider this, please check out the link and give serving in this way prayerful consideration.

Join Our Community Engagement Team

We're planning to engage more of the greater Ballard community as we open up the doors of our renovated facility in late Summer. A core team has started the process of considering,

"How do we, as people of faith, best use our building and resources to engage our community?"

Are you interested? Do you have the desire to:

- Do the leg work to actively engage with community organizations?
- Ask questions and be open to new perspectives?
- Be an enthusiastic ally, able to generate productive conversation within our congregation?

If you want to be a part of this forward-thinking, community-focused team, contact Pastor Kathy: kathyh@ourredeemers.net.



COMMUNITY



Madonna's Book Group by Lynne McNeill

Next Meeting Date TBD

On May 23rd the group met at Tricia Kloth's house and had a great time just being with each other in person. What a treat!

The group plans on meeting next in June or July. We will make sure we announce the date when it is finalized. In the meantime, there's another book to read for discussion: [THE PERFUME COLLECTOR](#) by Kathleen Tessaro.

If you are new to the group and have questions, or want to be on the Madonna's Book Group mailing list, contact Lynne McNeill buckomcneill@yahoo.com.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 Amy Dahlgren	12 Levi Jancola	20 Nancy Parks
1 Ken Lubkowski	12 Marete Meyer	21 Richard Holt
3 Paul BergJune	12 Susan Peltó	23 Matt Grover
3 Glory Frodesen	13 Jana Davis	24 Andrew Brissette
3 Harper Hammett	13 Erik Giesa	26 Olaf Brissette
5 Sam Altenberger	13 Araya Seyler	27 *Irene Day
8 Steve Erickson	14 Deanna Carter	28 Gabriel Jones
9 Nelson Miller	18 Danielle Modeen	28 Terrence Rindler
9 Mary Pederson	20 Ed Chabot	29 Marli Iverson
9 Christine Skow	20 Chuck McKenzie	30 Craig Gibson
10 Denny Palmason	20 *June Moore	

*BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO IRENE DAY (100+ YEARS) AND JUNE MOORE (90+ YEARS) WHO ARE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE!



Caring Community Team

Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 10:30 AM [on Zoom](#).

Dedicated to sharing comfort and support through visits, meals, cards, communion, and prayer shawls, the Caring Community Team is meeting again on June 5th. Contact [Linda Carbone](#) for more information or if you want to take part.

All are welcome!



COMMUNITY

We want to know what you think about the monthly newsletter you are reading. Your response will give us information about how we can improve it. Note: You can also take the survey online using this link: <https://rb.gy/rkq3dx>. Please respond by June 10. Thank you for participating!

Communications Survey: Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

We're interested in what you think about how you receive information from Our Redeemer's. This 3 minute survey focuses on your opinions about our monthly newsletter "TheVisitor".

1. How often do you read the monthly Our Redeemer's newsletter?

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Frequently
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

2. Please rank with a check mark each part of the newsletter in order of importance to you.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Somewhat Unimportant	Not Important
From the Pastor					
Living Generously					
Worship & Music					
Renovation News					
Faith Formation					
Social Justice					
Community/Thank Yous					
Monthly Calendar					
Other:					

3. How do you get the newsletter?

- ☐ A physical copy is mailed to me.
- ☐ I download from an email.
- ☐ I download from the church website.
- ☐ Other:

4. What more would you like to tell us about Our Redeemer's monthly newsletter?

5. Bonus Question!

Rank in importance to you these online platforms for receiving news and information from Our Redeemer's.

(1 = Least)

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Facebook |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Instagram |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Our Redeemer's Website (blogs, calendar, links, etc.) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Emails |

Thank you for your participation in our survey. We value and appreciate your input.

Please send your completed survey to:
Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church
c/o Communications Survey
5306 Ballard Ave NW, Ste 226
Seattle, WA 98107



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice Report by Elizabeth Dickinson

E-Cycling Event – Saturday, June 12th

Collect those unwanted electronics! Grab that styrofoam! Drop them off in the Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church parking lot on Saturday, June 12, 10 AM – 2 PM. Perhaps coordinate your drop-off with other members and turn it into an outside fellowship event! View the poster for the event: <https://rb.gy/ocOp3o>. Thank you Living Green Technology, Styro Recycle, and Our Redeemer's Social Justice Team!



Together, We Remember the Emanuel Nine – Sunday, June 13

We invite you to join us in remembering the Mother Emanuel Nine, and in making a space to grieve and reflect on racism, during the June 13 worship service. We will draw from an ELCA-African Methodist Episcopal Church joint commemoration service, as well as some reflections by our church's Racial Justice Advocates.

June 17, 2021 will be the sixth anniversary of the murder of nine members of the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina by a self-professed white supremacist. They were gathered for Bible study and prayer in the church, and had shown hospitality to the person who later killed them. Two of those who were killed – Pastors Pinckney and Simmons – were graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. The shooter had grown up in an ELCA church.

These are the names of those African-American members who were murdered:

Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson.

A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019, and congregations of the ELCA are encouraged to mark this day by reaffirming their commitment to repent the sins of racism and white supremacy.

Help Needed With Ballard Sunday Dinners This Summer

As we head into summer, please think about those times you will be in town and consider volunteering for one Ballard Sunday Dinner. There are opportunities to cook and serve, clean up, or take the lead in planning a meal in June, July, and August. I can share resources to help you, like a book of tried-and-true recipes, and veteran volunteers are willing to share their expertise.

Sign up online at [this LINK](#) or email Elizabeth Dickinson, outreach@ourredeemers.net, if you want to help out.

Juneteenth: A Celebration of Freedom by Pamela Altman



You know how it takes a long time for the government to get something done. Well, here is a case of a two-year lag between an executive decree and the completion of carrying out that order.

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1st, 1863. It wasn't completely carried out until June 19th, 1865. To be fair, Texas was in the westernmost corner of the Confederacy and a bit difficult to get to in 1863. It took over 2,000 Union troops arriving in Galveston Bay, Texas on June 19th, 1865 to announce that the state's 250,000 enslaved black people were free.

Historically, Juneteenth has been celebrated by our Black brothers and sisters as this nation's second Independence Day. Let us celebrate with them their independence from slavery this July 19th.

Editor's note: The Union troops were also needed to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation against resistance by local slaveholders. Texas later became the first state to establish Juneteenth as a State holiday in 1980, due to the efforts of African-American state lawmaker Al Edwards.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Your 3% at work! by Elizabeth Dickinson, Social Justice Coordinator

As you likely know, 3% of our congregation's annual giving is dedicated to "Gifts for the World." These are contributions to community organizations and activities that enhance compassion, justice, hope and the flourishing of all God's creation. Your generosity enabled us to give abundantly. Since these are gifts from all of us, you might be interested in where they went.

Needs were amplified everywhere because of the COVID pandemic.

This year, we gave **\$7,050 to provide shelter, transitional housing, counseling, sleeping bags and more** for those currently without a stable home. We certainly see the misery all around us. The total number of people experiencing homelessness in Washington grew 6.2% from 2019 to 2020, and the number of homeless in families grew 20.3%. (US HUD 2020 Report)

Hunger is the second biggest focus area for our community contributions. At about \$5,700, this giving supports the Ballard Sunday Dinner, the Ballard Food Bank, and St. Luke's Edible Hope Meals Program. The latter provided Thanksgiving takeout meals this past year when we could not host our traditional sit-down dinner.

Last year brought a renewed awareness of pervasive racial inequity, particularly seen in COVID-19 deaths and police enforcement. **\$3,500 went to efforts to increase racial justice**, including \$500 to a new ELCA Northwest Synod program to redress financial disparities in income and health care for Black, Indigenous and other pastors and deacons of color serving our congregations. I learned this week that, following World War II, one of every six Lutherans in the world was a refugee or a displaced person (ELCA Social Message on Immigration, 1998). Lutherans resettled about 57,000 refugees in the US soon after the war. That commitment to welcome continues today for those fleeing violence, political strife and chronic poverty. The Social Justice Committee chose to give **\$3,250 to support and resettle refugees**.

Other contributions include:

- **\$2,000 for creating, loading and sending quilts and hygiene and school kits to help our neighbors in the US and around the world recover from disasters**
- **\$1,500 to interfaith understanding and peace**
- **\$1,000 for affirming and welcoming those identifying as LGBTQ+ as beloved children of God and members of our ELCA churches**
- **\$1,000 to Lutheran Community Services Northwest for COVID-19 relief**
- **\$700 to Cub Scout Pack 100**
- **\$500 to Earth Ministry, a locally-based national interfaith organization advocating for creation care, and**
- **\$500 to the Faith Action Network, which helps Washingtonians of multiple faiths advocate for policy changes that help create and preserve affordable housing, address hunger, strengthen voting and civil rights, and more.**

Thank you so much for your gifts to this congregation and to the world!



Note: The events on this calendar are online meetings or events; all groups may choose to meet online. Check with your group leader or email office@ourredeemers.net for Zoom info

JUNE 2021

ourredeemers.net/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6</p> <p>9:30am Sprouts 11am Worship 1pm Adult Forum</p>	<p>7</p> <p>3pm Capital Campaign Team 7pm Faith Formation Team</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9am Capital Campaign Exec. Meeting 10am-1pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Gretchen 7:30 Generosity Team</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Office Closed# 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9am-12pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Kathy 3:45pm Staff Meeting 7pm Compline Service</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Note: Friday's are Pastor Kathy and Pastor Gretchen's Sabbath. Only emergency emails and calls answered. Thank you!</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:30am Sprouts 11am Worship 1pm Adult Forum</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10am-1pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Gretchen 7pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:30am Bible Study 1pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am-12pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Kathy 7pm Compline Service</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10am E-Cycling Event</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:30am Sprouts 11am Worship 2pm Ballard Sunday Dinner</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10am-1pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Gretchen 7pm Theology on Tap</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:30am Bible Study 1pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9am-12pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Kathy 7pm Compline Service</p>	<p>18</p> <p>July Newsletter Content Due</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:30am Sprouts 11am Worship 1pm ANNUAL MEETING 4pm Madonna's Book Group</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10am-1pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Gretchen</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30am Bible Study 1pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9am-12pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Kathy 7pm Compline Service</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>

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



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Seattle, WA 98107
www.ourredeemers.net
206-783-7900

*temporary mailing address

return service requested

Join Us 11:00 AM Sundays
for Worship

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

- By Zoom. <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>
- By Phone. Call 1 206 337 9723;
+822 691 346 when prompted
- Access videos of past services, sermons
and music on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

Congregational Annual Meeting

June 27 | 1:00 PM, on [ZOOM](https://zoom.us/j/822691346)

Our annual congregational meeting will be a Zoom meeting on
Sunday - June 27 at 1:00 PM.

We will celebrate and review the ministries and fiscal year coming to a close and
vote on the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget and new Council Members.

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

Join by Phone Call: +1 (206) 337-9723

Meeting ID: 822 691 346

Please join in!

Would you appreciate assistance participating? Need a computer or a helping hand?
Please contact Katlin Dickinson-Laurence at office@ourredeemers.net.

QUESTIONS? Please contact a Council member,
[Parish Administrator Karie Stearns](#), or one of the pastors.

Background image: architect's rendering of our redesigned church narthex.



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.