

MAY 2023

TheVisitor

Caring for the Earth



Earthcare Recycling Roundup

May 13th

page 12

Beachwalk at Golden Gardens

May 20th

page 9

At the Earthcare Retreat and Beach Cleanup April 21-23

A Community in the Model of Christ

From the Pastor...

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,³ but when they went in, they did not find the body.⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. – Luke 24



My Christmas cactus is blooming.

At Easter.

The last time it bloomed was right before Thanksgiving. The silly thing has apparently been confused for years. After I bought it, it bloomed nicely then dropped its blooms and

turned purple. I thought it was dead, so I left it outside by the compost bin for six months. Then one day it turned green again when the rain started last fall. Well, parts of it did.

When my aunt started into hospice it kept blooming right until she died.

And now, here it is again, showing life when it really should be dead. It's a "Thanks-geaster Lenten" cactus, reminding me that time in the tomb is necessary. And that those we lose are not as gone as we sometimes feel, and that hope is a gift we all need – so badly. Because I miss her so much.

...I know we all have those people.

This entire month of May is Easter, more than just one day, and we are Easter people who have found our way out of the tomb. **The rejuvenation of the earth helps us remember that resurrection is God's intention for all of us as an ongoing part of all of creation, not just a hope that we have for the future. All the leaves and flowers and new growth springing forth can't help but show us how God can make something living out of something that appeared to be dead.**

As we focus this month on caring for the Earth, and being good stewards of all God has given us, I pray that we will remember that we are part of that creation, and we need to care for ourselves as well.

Maybe you feel like you're the one sitting out by the compost bin, left for dead. But you are not forgotten, and resurrection is for you. And maybe you're the one who has life in you yet and can help pull someone back from the edge, filled with hope and care. God uses us all.

So, here's my cactus. Stupid cactus of HOPE. Wonderful cactus of resurrection.



Thanks be to God.

Gabriel Miller

Celebrating May Birthdays!

3 Iris Miller
4 Mia Brady
4 Victoria Hunter
4 Lena Rindler
5 Alyson Sundal
6 Cyanne Tung
7 Erin Miller
8 Carolyn Davis
9 Kim Smith
10 Margaret Berg
11 Anita Lewis
11 June Pfeiffer *

12 Logan McCarthy-Fredericks
12 AJ Schoolcraft
12 Ed Woodfield
13 Shelbe Kukowski
15 Jean Hall
15 Mick McDonald
16 Jodi Somm
18 Steve Kaimmer
19 Linda Carbone
20 Mary Peterson
21 Elaine Stevens *
22 Sonja Braasch

22 Gabrielle Chabot
22 Malaika Dugaw
22 Steven Jones
23 Kathy Hendricks
23 Eric Running
24 Allie Parrott
25 Emilie Purvine
26 Emily Bicknell
28 Colin Neu
29 Christine Anderson
30 David Neu
31 Shirley Holt

* Birthday Blessings to June Pfeiffer & Elaine Stevens who are celebrating 90+ birthdays this month.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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4 WORSHIP & MUSIC

6 LIVING GENEROUSLY

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9 SOCIAL JUSTICE

10 COMMUNITY

OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor
pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net
- David Hahn, Transition Facilitator
pastordavid@ourredeemers.net
(651)587-4417
- Jordan Holt, Nursery Attendant
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director
karen@ourredeemers.net
- Debbie Lematta, Communications
communications@ourredeemers.net
- Mandy Neill, Welcome Minister
welcome@ourredeemers.net
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator
administrator@ourredeemers.net

Phone: 206-783-7900

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10am-3pm

OUR VISION: In the model of Christ and for the life of the world, we are an inclusive, devoted, caring, and spiritual community that accepts challenges, takes risks, and grows.



This Month at Our Redeemer's

May 2, Tuesday	4 PM - Staff Meeting 6:30 PM - Synod-Wide Acts Study Zoom
May 3, Wednesday	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
May 4, Thursday	7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal
May 5 & 6, Friday & Saturday	LWR Loading Church Parking Lot
May 6, Saturday	9 AM - Noon - Emmaus Visitor Workshop Our Redeemer's
May 7, Sunday	9 AM - Informal Worship Sprouts: 9 AM In-Person 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes & Confirmation 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship
May 9, Tuesday	6:30 PM - Synod-Wide Acts Study Zoom 6:30 PM - Executive Team
May 10, Wednesday	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
May 11, Thursday	6:30 PM - LiVE Project: The Kin-dom of God and Environmental Justice Zoom 7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal
May 12, Friday	6 PM - YOUTH PIZZA AND GAME NIGHT Fellowship Hall
May 13, Saturday	10 AM - 2 PM - EARTHCARE RECYCLING ROUNDUP Church Parking Lot
May 14, Sunday	9 AM - Informal Worship Sprouts: 9 AM In-Person 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes & Confirmation 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship
May 16, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting 6:30 PM - Synod-Wide Acts Study Zoom 7 PM - Church Council Meeting
May 17, Wednesday	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
May 18, Thursday	6:30 PM - LiVE Project: The Kin-dom of God and Environmental Justice Zoom 7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal
May 20, Saturday	BEACH WALK w/ Pastor Gretchen Golden Gardens Duck Pond
May 21, Sunday	9 AM - Informal Worship Sprouts: 9 AM In-Person 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes & Confirmation 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship 2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner Ballard First Lutheran 4 PM - Madonna's Book Group
May 23, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting 6:30 PM - Synod-Wide Acts Study Zoom
May 24, Wednesday	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
May 25, Thursday	7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal
May 28, Sunday	9 AM - Informal Worship Sprouts: 9 AM In-Person 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes & Confirmation 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship
May 29, Monday	MEMORIAL DAY
May 30, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting 6:30 PM - Synod-Wide Acts Study Zoom
May 31, Wednesday	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal



Worship and Music

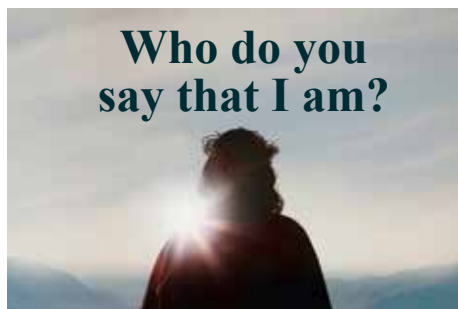


Holy Week at Our Redeemer's





Worship and Music



Summer Worship Schedule by Pastor Gretchen

Sundays, June 25 – September 3, One Service at 10 AM

Meeting Jesus: Who do you say that I am?

This summer we will be exploring our assumptions about Jesus Christ and learning new depth and meaning about the Messiah in our worship services. The gospels are filled with tension surrounding the matter of who others want Jesus to be versus who he actually is – in much the same way we still do today! In the scriptures, Jesus causes us to ever bear in mind our traditions, the people with whom we associate, and what it means to be grace-filled and still prophetic.

Our summer schedule is lighter than the rest of the year, with one service at 10am, followed by coffee and fellowship outside on the patio. Special music will be shared from various members of our community as offering, and we will worship less formally “in the round.” As always, we will have nursery care provided, but our faith formation classes will be on hold until the beginning of the school year in September.



*For the beauty of the Earth, for the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies
Christ our God, to thee we raise, this our offering of praise.*

For the festival of Easter that runs thru May 28th, **we will be building our worship experience around the hymn, ‘For the Beauty of the Earth,’ merging our joy at new life and the resurrection of Jesus Christ with our Earthcare emphasis and the joy of spring in the Pacific Northwest.**

As you celebrate, you are encouraged to do your part as a steward of creation – recycling, advocating for environmental justice, learning about our ecosystem, increasing your use of sustainable household goods, and getting outside to enjoy the beauty of nature. **There are so many wonderful ways to make a difference in the health of our world!**

We would love to hear how you and your family choose to participate in Earthcare this season. Send photos and snippets to Debbie at communication@ourredeemers.net.



Living Generously

Our Redeemer's Mission Budget thru 3-31-2023 (75% thru the 2022-2023 fiscal year)

Income	2022-2023 Approved Budget	Year to Date Income as of 3.31.23	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget Year to Date
Envelope & Loose Offerings	520,073	354,809	68.2%	(35,246)
Church Use	85,000	70,332	82.7%	6,582
*Special Giving	-	202,282	-	-
Fundraising (Auction)	26,000	30,467	117%	10,967
Interest	1,000	293	29.3%%	(457)
Total Regular Income (without Special Giving)	\$632,073	\$455,901	72.1%	(18,154)
**TOTAL INCOME	\$632,073	\$660,131	104.4%	186,076
Expenses	2022-2023 Approved Budget	Year to Date Expenses as off 3.31.23	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$642,688	\$395,609	61.6%%	(86,406)

Regular giving is below budget by \$35,246. Expenses are also below budget and are mostly attributed to understaffing while we work through the transition process. Removing the special one-time gift, the church's expenses and income show a positive net profit of \$60,292. Expenses coming in at \$86,406 under budget contributed to this high net profit.

*Special Giving denotes a one-time gift that was outside of regularly giving.

**Please note the last week of income for February was not recorded as the volunteer who posts incoming revenue was out ill. That income was included in March's summary.

For questions/concerns-please contact Parish Administrator, Karie Stearns, and Treasurer, Erin Miller, at administrator@ourredeemers.net. Thank you for your support!





Faith Formation

Meet Our Journey-ers! by Mandy Neill



Barb Moen



Judy Malmgren



Anne McGrew



Mary Melvey



Sarah Bloom



Cathy Fransson



Ardene Adams



Metriese Wayne



Sam & Emily Hendricks



Jolanta & Paul Grigsby



Rachel Stenberg &
Andrew Shimer

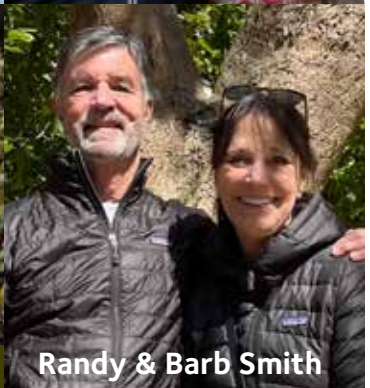


Scott & Katharine
Chrisman

For the 6 Sundays in Lent, we had these 19 amazing folks show up for the Journey. Each week we started out with great conversation over delicious snacks, learned about Lutheran theology, the ministries of the church, one another's faith journeys, and new Bible study practices. Journey participants met in a small group with other newer attendees, but also were matched up with an "Orienteer" (a member from the congregation) who could serve as a touch point for getting to know the church and the congregation. **On June 4th, many of these Journey-ers will be affirmed in their membership at Our Redeemer's.** Please take a minute to familiarize yourself with these faces and introduce yourself. Each one is an amazing individual whose presence in our church community we're all so thankful for!



Susan Ulrich-Angell



Randy & Barb Smith



Faith Formation



Youth Pizza and Game Night!

Friday, May 12, 6 - 8 PM | Fellowship Hall

Let's Roll! Friday, May 12 is Role Play night for middle school youth, 7th thru 9th grade. Join the adventure party and be lead on a night of dungeon delving in a role play adventure. Andrew Shimer is our Dungeon Master!

All levels of experience welcome, all you need is your imagination and a thirst for adventure. If role playing games aren't your vibe, other board games will be available to play as well, lead by another adult.

Join the fun and bring a friend if you want for a night of pizza and Dungeons and Dragons - pizza and drinks provided! We hope to see you there!



THE LiVE PROJECT

living into vocational engagement

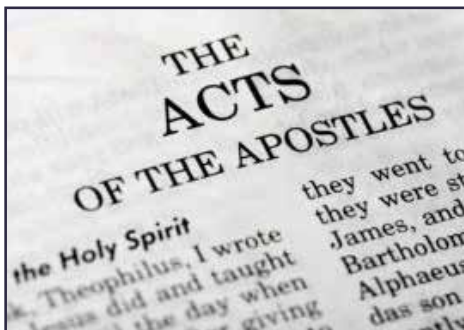
The LiVE Project is a ministry of the NW WA Synod, and proudly engaged in emerging partnership with Trinity Education Foundation who provided a generous grant for the 2023 calendar year.

LiVE Project: The Kin-dom of God and Environmental Justice

Class meets Thursdays on Zoom, 6:30-8 PM, May 11 & May 18

This ongoing series will help you consider and embody how faith lives at the intersection of co-creating a just and sustainable future. Using the ELCA Social Statement on Caring for Creation as a guide, **participants will build a faith-based foundation with a toolkit of resources for taking action as stewards of Earth and advocates for environmental justice.** Come and learn how you and your congregation can engage this essential, and timely, vocation to care for creation in a way that centers justice.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89523139793?pwd=b3dYNIVHMkRyeHhvYUxscnJsVHNGUT09> Meeting ID: 895 2313 9793 Passcode: 353037



Synod-Wide Acts Study

Class meets on Tuesdays 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82209850836?pwd=ZS9sRm1HVHhLUdZZWkxXa3ppTm1oQT09>
Meeting ID: 822 0985 0836 Passcode: Acts



Social Justice

Upcoming Earthcare Events

- **Earthcare Recycling Roundup!**

May 13, 10 AM – 2 PM

We will have electronics, Styrofoam, and bicycles, parts, and bike accessories recycling. Volunteers are needed and welcomed. Contact Connie Sandstrom with questions (conniesandstrom05@gmail.com).

- **Beach Walk at Golden Gardens (hosted by Pastor Gretchen)**

May 20, 11 AM – 1 PM [low tide is at 12:11 PM]

Everyone is welcome to meet at the duck pond at Golden Gardens for a fun, informational beach walk together. We'll spend time looking for marine invertebrates and enjoying God's creation.

Wear your rain boots and bring your camera!

- **Attend a LiVE Project Earthcare Class on Thursdays**

The Kin-dom of God and Environmental Justice puts a focus on Spirit-Stirring, Creation Care and Environmental Justice.
(See previous page for more details.)



LWR Spring Health Care Kits: Ready To Go!

A huge thank you to all the generous donations to Lutheran World Relief health care kits this spring. Sharon Longaker, our LWR mission leader, says that **sixty personal care kits were made to send out into the world to those in need!** The truck loading will be taking place in the church parking lot on May 5th and 6th.



Lutheran World Relief

We need help loading the trucks! If you can help out, contact Sharon: slongaker@msn.com. Thank you!



Sign Up thru Summer: Ballard Sunday Dinner

Ballard Sunday Dinner (BSD) takes place on the third Sunday of each month at Ballard First Lutheran Church. **As warm weather approaches and vacations are planned, we want to make sure we have volunteers lined up to help out throughout the summer months.** We are always looking for volunteers to help each month but we're especially hoping for some folks to learn to be leads so we can add you to the rotation.

- **Early lead** is straight forward – planning the meal and leading the volunteers through cooking and plating.
- **Late lead** focuses on making sure everyone is served and the kitchen and hall are cleaned up afterwards.
- **All the roles have lots of availability** – we'll partner up with you until you're comfortable. Please consider signing up.

Sign up (<https://rb.gy/ea817>) for May 21, June 18, July 16, or August 20. Reach out to Amy Borgmeyer (amy.borgmeyer@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for all that you do!



Community

Sharing Time & Talents – An Interview with Emilie Purvine

by Phillipa Dugaw

1. Tell us about yourself, your family and how long you've been a member of Our Redeemer's.

I'm a mathematician, handbell ringer, canoer, lover of snow, reader of novels, wife of Sam, mother to Finnegan, and lifelong Lutheran. There's a lot more but those are the highlights. Sam and I moved to Seattle from Eastern WA in 2016 and I started looking for churches later that year. I found Our Redeemer's and joined the following Easter. It felt right from the first time I attended. Now attending with Finn (he was born November 2022) I'm starting to see things a little differently and loving it even more!

2. How did you get involved in the church and what ministry or ministries are you involved in?

The first couple of things I was involved with were Ballard Sunday Dinner (BSD) and Theology on Tap. I enjoyed the discussions at TonT (and the beer!). It was truly a space where anything theological could be asked and discussed, no judgment. As for BSD, I started by being a volunteer for the cooking, serving, and clean up slots. Then I was asked to "shadow" the lead position a few times to learn the ropes. I was nervous and worried that it would be really difficult (how do you cook for 50+ people?!), but it turned out pretty easy once I knew what to do. Also, for the past 6 years (two terms) I've been on the church council. I've learned a ton from serving in that way and am really glad I answered that call.



Sam, Finnegan, and Emilie Purvine

3. What's been your favorite part of working in that ministry?

There are many things I enjoy about this ministry, but mostly it's the community we create and lift up. When I started with BSD, for example, we were serving hot meals in person to around 70 people each time. The volunteers would eat alongside the guests. Repeat volunteers started to make connections with repeat guests, learn their names and their stories, and check in when they saw them. We also created a community among the volunteers. Spending 2+ hours cooking and serving gave us time to get to know each other. Once COVID hit we started serving meals to go but we still saw a lot of the same people and kept making those connections. Now that we're back to in person we're seeing that the community is re-forming. While it's a terrible situation to have folks continually unhoused, it's good to know that there are ministries like BSD that can help provide support to those that need it.

4. How can others get involved in Ballard Sunday Dinner?

It's easy! Just sign up for whatever slot strikes your interest (see the bottom of page 9 for how to sign up). Cooking can be great fun and you don't need to know anything about making meals for large groups – the leads will tell you what to do. Serving is a great way to start making connections, and clean up is just as important as cooking! We're guests in the Ballard First Lutheran kitchen and want to leave it as clean as we found it each time. If you want to learn about leading BSD I suggest you shadow one of the leads who has done it a few times and knows the ropes. We have recipes that we know work well and can show you what you need to know to cook for a crowd in this kitchen. It may feel intimidating but I promise it's not so difficult!



Community

Seeking: Council Nominations

Are you interested in church governance and leadership? Church council may be the thing for you! **The Nominating Committee is looking for at least one member to join the council starting in July.** If you have an interest or have questions please reach out to

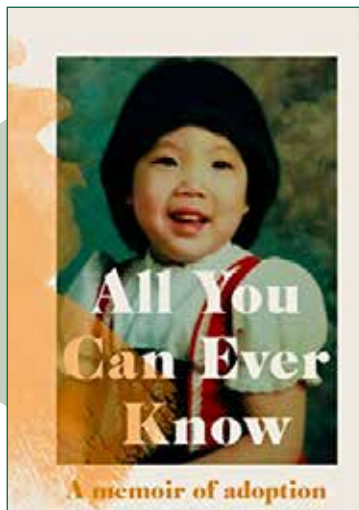
Emilie Purvine (emiliepurvine@gmail.com), Jana Brady (janaledavis@hotmail.com), or Steve Cromwell (steveaalesund@gmail.com).



Emmaus Visitor Workshop May 6th!

Saturday, May 6, 9 AM - Noon | Our Redeemer's

Sharing quality time with our home-bound members is one of the most important ministries of our congregation. People become home-bound for many reasons – age, disability, illness, family changes – and those reasons shouldn't separate them from their family of faith. Our Emmaus Visitors are regular folks (just like you!) who share communion, prayers, and relationship with our home-bound members once a month. We currently have 12 members who would like an Emmaus Visitor, and there are only 6 current Emmaus Visitors. If this is a ministry you feel called to, please contact Julie Vannoy at julianne.van@comcast.net to register for our workshop on May 6th from 9 am-noon. Even if you are just curious about this ministry, you are welcome to attend the workshop. Thank you!



Madonna's Book Group

The book to be discussed in May is **ALL YOU CAN EVER KNOW** by Nicole Chung. All are welcome to join in!

Madonna's Book Group meets to review books, support each other, and share personal journeys. Contact Lynne at buckomcneill@yahoo.com for more details or if you wish to join in.



2400 NW 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98117

www.ourredeemers.net
206-783-7900

return service requested

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM Informal Service

in-person

11 AM Traditional Service

in-person & online

Stream Online at 11 AM

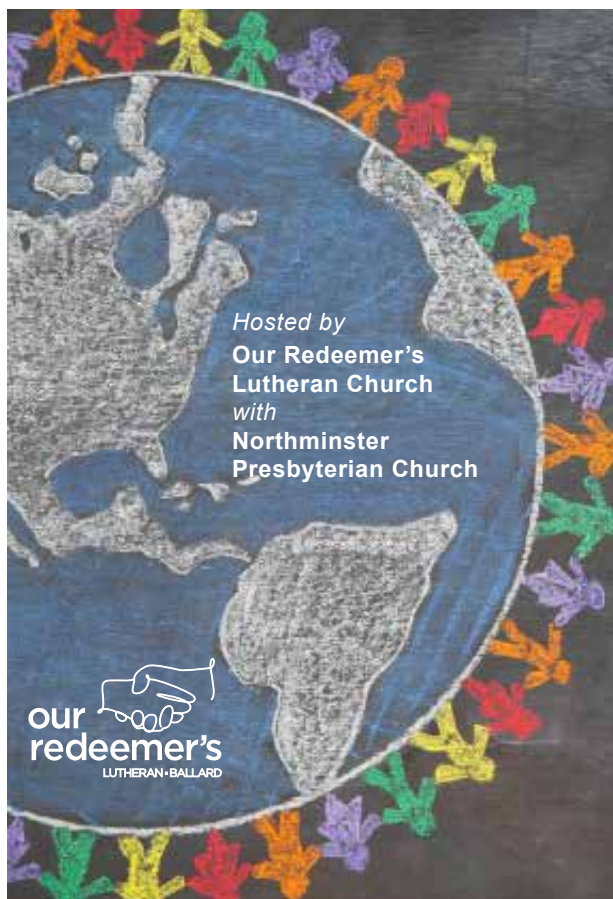
Facebook: facebook.com/OurRedeemers

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

Church office hours:

Monday-Thursday

10 AM - 3PM



Earthcare Recycling Roundup

Saturday, May 13, 2023 | 10am - 2pm
Our Redeemer's Parking Lot | 2400 NW 85th Street, Seattle

Hosted by
Our Redeemer's
Lutheran Church
with
Northminster
Presbyterian Church

Free Recycling of

- Unwanted electronics**
- Styrofoam packaging**
- Bikes, parts & accessories**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Thank you to:

- Living Green Technology**
206.356.4158
- Styro Recycle**
253.838.9555
- Bikeworks**
206.806.8406



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