

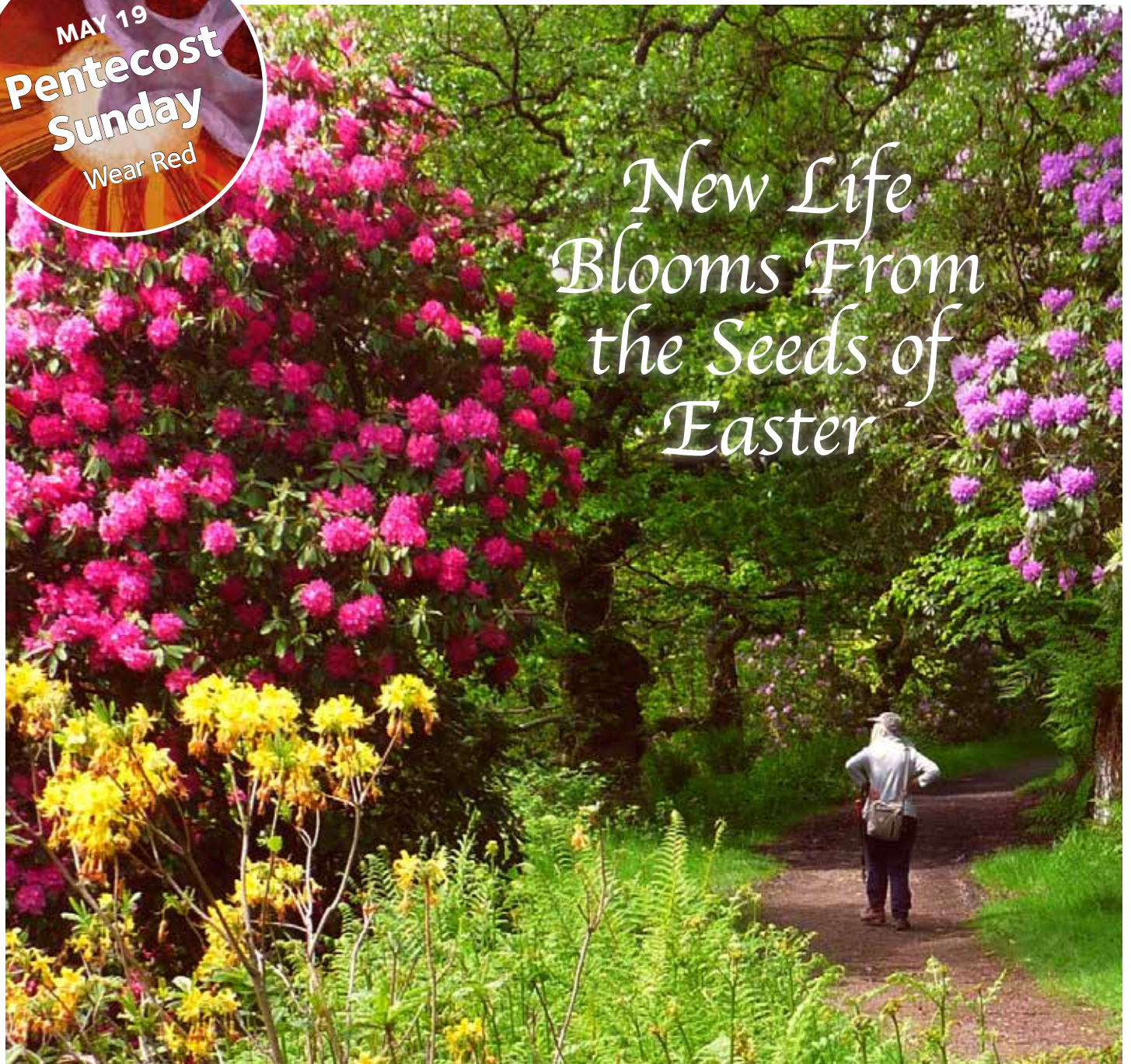
MAY 2024

our redeemer's  
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

# TheVisitor



*New Life  
Blooms From  
the Seeds of  
Easter*



A Community in the Model of Christ



## From the Bishop...

**I have a confession to make, I am a terrible pool player.** I am so bad that the last time I played, the person I was playing with stopped the game and said, "You are the worst pool player I have ever played with." (I had told him I was horrible but he didn't believe me.) I'm using this story as a very thin tangent to talk about gifts and the Spirit ... bear with me.

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12, we read, *"Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."*

As many of you know, Paul was writing to a congregation in Corinth after receiving some correspondence from them and hearing their concerns. Throughout this letter Paul emphatically makes it clear that no one is spiritually better than others – no one has better faith, no one has better gifts, no one should eat better than another at the Eucharist table. Paul is adamant in this. (He is talking about this because of some struggles in the Corinth church. You are welcome to read the entire letter of 1 Corinthians to get more context.)

Paul emphasizes that because we all receive faith through the Holy Spirit, no one is spiritually superior. Paul further emphasizes that because we all receive a variety of gifts given by the Holy Spirit, no one has a worthier gift than another. And, to emphasize this point, Paul writes that the Spirit does not give only one kind of gift to all. Because the church and the world need diverse gifts, the Spirit gives different gifts to different people. In other words, Paul is simply saying this: same Spirit – lots of gifts.

**You hear this? In a society where we emphasize certain gifts and skills and abilities above others (and often feel like we have fallen short), we hear in 1 Corinthians that the Holy Spirit gives a variety of gifts to a variety of people. Specifically, YOU have been given a variety of gifts, and this is good.**

Further, these Holy Spirit gifts – they are not meant to benefit the individual person but are to benefit the entire community and world. Paul emphasizes that these gifts are not to be used in selfish ways or in self-seeking ways. Paul clearly states that if a gift cannot be

shared, and shared for the good of others, it is not from the Spirit. Ultimately, the purpose of these different gifts of the Spirit is to share in God's love and grace and mercy with all through Jesus Christ our Savior.

As Americans, we have often been told (and maybe believe) that as individuals we are responsible for ourselves. We are not to rely on others – we are to be strong and self-sufficient. We are taught that to have freedom is to be autonomous. But let's be clear. This is far from what we read in 1 Corinthians. Paul says each person receives gifts for the common good. Paul says that each person receives the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. It is in community where the gifts from the Holy Spirit shine. It is in community where the Holy Spirit is made manifest.

**You see, it is God's intention that we are to be with one another – for one another – as the community of faith, as the body of Christ, as the Church on earth.** The Holy Spirit has given a variety of gifts to a variety of congregations and individuals. And together we are called to bring these gifts together to help bear one another's burdens, to love and pray together, to bring justice and new life, to be made manifest in the Holy Spirit for the common good.

Honestly, it doesn't matter that I am a terrible pool player. But it does matter how I both share the gifts that God has given me and how I reach out to others in mutual support when I am in need.

I would love to hear stories from you about your gifts being made manifest in the Holy Spirit – individually and in your congregation. How are each person's gifts being shared in your own particular congregation? How is your congregation sharing with another congregation? What gifts were missing from your particular place of worship that you have found outside of your space? What gifts have you been able to share with others?



May we live into what we often say in worship, "The gifts of God, for the people of God." Amen.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee  
[bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)

# What's Happening in May at Our Redeemer's

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

### 2 FROM THE PASTOR

### 4 LIVING GENEROUSLY

### 5 WORSHIP & MUSIC

### 6 FAITH FORMATION

### 7 COMMUNITY

### 10 SOCIAL JUSTICE

## OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Thomas Voelp, Pastor  
pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net  
(206) 783-7900 ext. 2
- Gianfranco Foddai, Informal Worship Music Director  
gianfranco@ourredeemers.net
- 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.



May 1, Wednesday

6:30 PM - Kid's Choir, 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

May 3, Friday

8 AM-2 PM - LWR In-Gathering | Parking Lot  
Women's Retreat | Seabeck Retreat Center (thru Sunday)

May 4, Saturday

8-11:30 AM - LWR In-Gathering | Parking Lot

**May 5, Sunday**

**9 AM - Informal Worship**

9 AM - Sprouts In-Person | Downstairs  
10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Downstairs  
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall  
**11 AM - Traditional Worship**

May 6, Monday

5 PM - A Women's Gathering | Obec Brewing, Ballard

May 7, Tuesday

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting  
7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom  
7 PM - Executive Team Meeting | Zoom

May 8, Wednesday

6:30 PM - Kid's Choir, 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

May 11, Saturday

9 AM - Liturgical Arts Meeting | Our Redeemer's  
10 AM - 2 PM - Neighborhood Recycling Roundup | Our Redeemer's Parking Lot  
10 AM - VBS Planning Meeting | Our Redeemer's  
11 AM - Caring Community Team Meeting

**May 12, Sunday**  
**Mother's Day**

**9 AM - Informal Worship**

9 AM - Sprouts In-Person | Downstairs  
10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Downstairs  
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall  
**11 AM - Traditional Worship**

May 14, Tuesday

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting  
7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom  
7 PM - Church Council Meeting | Our Redeemer's

May 15, Wednesday

6:30 PM - Kid's Choir, 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

May 17, Friday

10 AM - 9 PM - 17th of May Parade, Syttende Mai  
50th Anniversary | Ballard

**May 19, Sunday**  
**PENTECOST**

**9 AM - Informal Worship**

9 AM - Sprouts In-Person | Downstairs  
10 AM - Call Committee & Transition Team Thank You Reception | Fellowship Hall  
10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Downstairs  
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall  
**11 AM - Traditional Worship**  
2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner | Ballard First Lutheran  
3 PM - Madonna's Book Group | Location TBD

May 21, Tuesday

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting  
7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom

May 22, Wednesday

6:30 PM - Kid's Choir, 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

**May 26, Sunday**

**9 AM - Informal Worship**

9 AM - Sprouts In-Person | Downstairs  
10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Downstairs  
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall  
**11 AM - Traditional Worship**

May 27, Monday

Memorial Day | Church Office Closed

May 28, Tuesday

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting  
7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom

May 29, Wednesday

6:30 PM - Kid's Choir, 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal



# Living Generously

To view the Financial Snapshot spreadsheet for Our Redeemer's thru March 2024, visit this [LINK](https://bit.ly/4bhObNR) (<https://bit.ly/4bhObNR>). If you have questions or concerns about Our Redeemer's financial status, contact Karie Stearns, [administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net).

## Our Redeemer's Mission Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (Thru 3.31.24) 75% thru the fiscal year

Income	2023-2024 Approved Budget	Year to Date Income as of 3.31.24	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget Year to Date
Envelope & Loose Offerings	511,100	371,254	72.6%	(12,071)
Church Use	88,506	68,036	76.9%	1,657
Fundraising (Auction)*	38,000	348	0.9%	(28,152)
Interest	1,000	43	4.3%	(707)
Special/One-Time Gifts	-	31,000	N/A	31,000
Total Regular Income (without Special Giving)**	638,606	439,682	68.9%	(39,273)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>638,606</b>	<b>470,682</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>(8,2723)</b>

Expenses	2023-2024 Approved Budget	Year to Date Expenses as off 3.31.24	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget
Social Justice/Outreach	74,549	40,330	54.1%	(15,581)
Pastoral Staff	172,820	75,487	43.7%	(54,128)
Worship & Music	38,382	36,742	95.7%	7,955
Fellowship & Caring	2,750	2,590	94.2%	527
Faith Formation	22,517	19,786	87.9%	2,898
Stewardship	11,419	5,934	52.0%	(2,630)
Communications***	55,667	69,338	124.6%	27,588
Facilities	108,978	90,839	83.4%	9,105
Administration	150,615	93,918	62.4%	(19,043)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$637,697</b>	<b>434,964</b>	<b>68.2%</b>	<b>(43,308)</b>

Regular giving is below budget by \$12,071 and regular income is below budget by \$39,273.

\*However, the above numbers do not yet reflect income brought in by April's Auction, skewing the total over/under budget year-to-date numbers for regular income.

\*\*Special Giving denotes a one-time gift that is outside of regular giving.

\*\*\*Communications expense line will continue to be overbudget for the 23-24 FY due to staffing backpay.

For questions/concerns-please contact Parish Administrator, Karie Stearns at [administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net).

Thank you for your support!

## Celebrating May Birthdays!

- |                              |                    |                       |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Maria Kalina               | 12 AJ Schoolcraft  | 22 Steven Jones       |
| 2 Jennifer Kremer            | 12 Ed Woodfield    | 23 Kathy Hendricks    |
| 3 Iris Miller                | 13 Shelbe Kukowski | 23 Eric Running       |
| 4 Mia Brady                  | 15 Jean Hall       | 24 Katharine Staples  |
| 4 Victoria Hunter            | 15 Mick McDonald   | 25 Emilie Purvine     |
| 5 Alyson Sundal              | 16 Jodi Somm       | 26 Emily Bicknell     |
| 6 Cyanne Tung                | 18 Steve Kaimmer   | 28 Colin Neu          |
| 7 Erin Miller                | 19 Linda Carbone   | 28 Andrew Shimer      |
| 8 Carolyn Davis              | 20 Matteo Lowe     | 29 Christine Anderson |
| 9 Kim Smith                  | 20 Mary Peterson   | 30 David Neu          |
| 10 Margaret Berg             | 21 Elaine Stevens* | 31 Shirley Holt       |
| 11 Anita Lewis               | 22 Sonja Braasch   | 31 Olivia Rallo       |
| 12 Logan McCarthy-Fredericks | 22 Malaika Dugaw   |                       |
| 12 Connie Sandstrom          | 22 Jolanta Grigsby |                       |

\*Birthday Blessings to Elaine Stevens who is celebrating a 90+ birthday this month.  
Belated Birthday Blessings to Ardene Adams who celebrated a birthday on April 20th.





# Worship and Music

## Pentecost Sunday

May 19, 9 AM & 11 AM Services

We are celebrating Pentecost on Sunday May 19th. Pentecost is the day we recognize God's creation of the Church. It is our tradition to wear red that day, and be reminded of the many gifts of the Holy Spirit.



### Installation of Pastor Thomas Voelp Friday, June 7th

You are invited to attend the Installation of The Reverend Thomas Voelp as Pastor at Our Redeemer's. The service of Installation will be held **Friday June 7, 2024 at 6:00 pm** with a reception to follow. If you'd like to help with planning the reception, please contact Parish Administrator Karie Stearns, [administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net).

### Thanks, Gian!

Gianfranco Foddai, Our Redeemer's Informal Worship Music Director was our "guest musician" at the April 27th "Bloom & Grow Together" Auction. Thank you, Gian, for stepping in with your beautiful piano playing.

To hear Gian and varied guests play and sing on a regular basis, attend Our Redeemer's 9:00 am service on Sundays.



### Our Redeemer's Kid's Choir

Our Redeemer's Kid's Choir regularly sings at our 9:00 and 11:00 am services and practices weekly each Wednesday at 6:30pm at Our Redeemer's. The choir consists of kids from 5 years - 5th grade. If you have questions about how your child can get involved throughout the year, contact Karen Lee, [karen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:karen@ourredeemers.net).



# Faith Formation



## Vacation Bible School Needs You!

Planning Meeting: Saturday, May 11, 10 AM | Our Redeemer's

Your participation is needed to bring VBS to life! **Join us for a VBS planning session on May 11th at 10:00 am at Our Redeemer's.** Together, we'll select this year's theme and iron out the logistics for our summer program happening the week of **July 29–August 2**. If you're interested in contributing some time to this special summer program, mark your calendar for the May 11th meeting!

## Capturing Our Church Family's Moments: A Call for Your Photos!

In the heart of our church community lie countless moments of joy, fellowship, and shared experiences. These moments, both big and small, weave together the beautiful tapestry of our shared journey in faith. As we continue to nurture this spirit of togetherness, we invite each of you to become storytellers through the lens of your cameras.

Whether it's a smiling face during Sunday service, a candid capture from a fellowship gathering, or a group shot from a community outreach endeavor, each photo holds the power to illuminate the essence of who we are as a church family.

That's why we're reaching out to YOU to be a vital part of our storytelling journey. We invite you to share your photos of church events with us, so we can weave them into the fabric of our communications and outreach efforts.

Here's how you can participate:

- **Capture Moments:** Whenever you attend a church event, bring your camera or smartphone and capture those special moments.
- **Share with Us:** Email your photos to [communications@ourredeemers.net](mailto:communications@ourredeemers.net), along with a brief description of the event and the names of anyone featured in the photo (if applicable).
- **Grant Permission:** By sharing your photos, you grant permission for their use in church communications, including newsletters, social media posts, and website content. Rest assured, your photos will be credited whenever possible.

Your contributions will not only enhance our communication efforts but also strengthen the bonds of fellowship within Our Redeemer's. Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm!



*Is this historic church photo the first ever taken to tell the story of Our Redeemer's?*



# Community



## Be of Service. Be a Council Member.

Interested in shaping the direction of your church and exercising leadership within your community? Join the Church Council! The Nominating Committee is seeking dedicated individuals to join our council starting in June.

If you have an interest or have questions please reach out to Emilie Purvine ([emiliepurvine@gmail.com](mailto:emiliepurvine@gmail.com)), Jana Brady ([janaledavis@hotmail.com](mailto:janaledavis@hotmail.com)), or Steve Cromwell ([steveaalesund@gmail.com](mailto:steveaalesund@gmail.com)).



## Save the Date: Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 23, 11 AM | Our Redeemer's

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday June 23rd after the morning service (there is just one service that day at 10:00 am). At 11:00 am we will vote on the budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and celebrate the ending of the 23-24 fiscal and programmatic year. All active members in good standing are eligible to vote.

Pastor Thomas is Our Redeemer's Seattle Pride Parade event coordinator for 2024. Contact him if you have any questions, or to let him know you will be marching this year: [pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net).

## This Summer's Pride Parade and You

Sunday, June 30 | Downtown Seattle

On June 30th our community honors and celebrates the queer community by marching in the Pride Parade, in support of queer persons and to advocate for gay rights. **2024 marks the 50-year anniversary since 200+ LGBTQIA+ people gathered publicly in Seattle as an act of collective resistance.** This year's theme is "Now!: Now is the moment. Now is our legacy. Now is forever." Seattle Pride's mission is to create unity, honor diversity, and achieve equal human rights throughout our region and the world. [Learn more](https://bit.ly/4aVZRWB) (<https://bit.ly/4aVZRWB>) by going to Seattle Pride's website and join in!







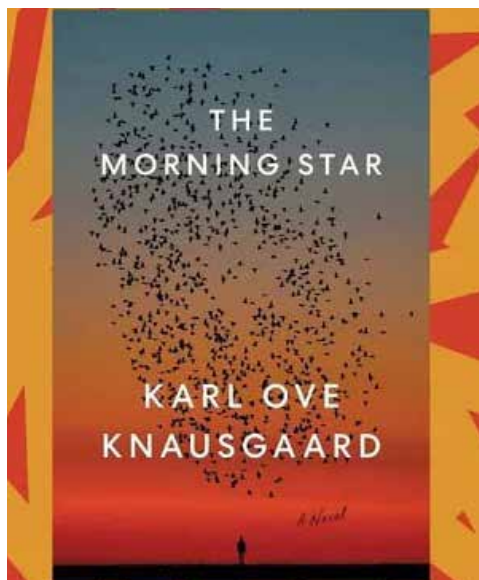
# Community



## A Women's Gathering - First Mondays

Monday, May 6, 5 PM | Obec Brewing, 1144 NW 52nd St.

You're invited to join us for a lively monthly gathering, held on the first Monday of each month from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. It's a delightful opportunity to engage in conversations and share laughter with fellow women from Our Redeemer's community! The next gathering is on May 6th at Obec Brewing. Whether you prefer non-alcoholic beverages or crave a bite from the food truck on-site, we've got you covered. Let's come together for an evening of camaraderie and joy! We hope you'll leave with a heart warmed and a smile brightened.. If you have any questions or need assistance with transportation, please don't hesitate to reach out to Connie Sandstrom at 206-375-5449, or email Kari Guddal at [kari\\_guddal@outlook.com](mailto:kari_guddal@outlook.com).



## Madonna's Book Group

Sunday, May 19, 3 PM | Location TBD

The Madonna's will meet next on Sunday, May 19th, 3:00 pm at a member's home (location TBD). The book the group is reading and discussing is **THAT MORNING STAR** by **Carl Ove Knausgaard**. (The April meeting is being skipped because this is a long book, 666 pages. Get your book now!)

The book group is growing! Before Covid we had about 12 members and now there are 19 members! Our discussions start out with snacks and chatting, then a discussion about the book and ends with more chatting, choosing the book for the next month, and scheduling the next date and location.

You are invited to join in! Contact Lynne at [buckomcneill@yahoo.com](mailto:buckomcneill@yahoo.com) with questions or to be added to the contact list.

## 17th of May Seattle

Friday, May 17, 10 AM - 9 PM | Ballard

Many in our community celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day with the largest 17th of May parade outside of Norway, right in the heart of Ballard! This year the Syttende Mai events celebrate 50 years in Ballard! HIPP HIPP HIPP HURRA! Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3y4C7Rs>.







# Community



## Call Committee and Transition Team Thank You Reception

Sunday, May 19, 10 AM | Fellowship Hall

Our Transition Team and Call Committee took on some of the most consequential work in which a congregation engages: discerning who we are as a congregation, and identifying a pastor to both lead and partner with us in our mission. Please join us as we gather and show our gratitude to these leaders on May 19th between services. We will be thanking these team members:

Transition Team:

Bob Carlson, Lars Sveum Hanson,  
Kari Guddal, Meagan Minus,  
Michael Hammett

Call Committee:

Bob Carlson, Kari Guddal  
Meagan Minus, Ellen Arrington  
Pamela Altman, Andrew Shimer  
Jordan Holt



## Bloom & Grow Together Auction Fun!

A magical evening of bidding and blooming at our "Bloom and Grow Together" Auction on April 27th was had by all who attended, bid, or donated. **The event raised \$22,091 in support of the ministry and Mission of our church.** You can still donate to fund our Mission by writing out a check, through Vanco mobile, or by donating on our website (please indicate 'auction' in the memo). Thank you!





# Social Justice



## LWR In-Gathering - See What's It's All About!

Friday & Saturday, May 3-4, 8 AM Start | Our Redeemer's Parking Lot

We ended up with 88 personal care kits, with donations from many different people. A great big thank you to all! The loading will take place Friday, May 3rd from 8:00 am -2:00 pm, and Saturday May 4th from 8:00 am -11:30 am.

Stop by to say "hi" and see how our donations begin their journey to those in need, beginning in our own parking lot! People from all over Western Washington come with their quilts and kits to Our Redeemer's, filling the large containers in our lot. It's a sight to see!



## Summer Help Needed - Ballard Sunday Dinner

Join us in making a difference at Ballard Sunday Dinner (BSD) every third Sunday of the month! BSD is a collaborative effort with local churches aimed at providing meals for our community members in need, typically serving around 30 guests per month. Our upcoming dinners are scheduled for May 19th and June 16th.

Volunteer roles are open and flexible, and we'll pair you with a partner until you feel confident on your own. We provide recipes and shopping lists for volunteers, and experienced BSD volunteers are available to guide anyone who wants to get involved. Come be a part of something meaningful!

Please make the commitment to help out by using this link: <https://rb.gy/ea817>. Amy Borgmeyer ([amy.borgmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:amy.borgmeyer@gmail.com)) is available to contact if you have any questions. Thank you for what you can do!



Amy Borgmeyer at Ballard Sunday Dinner in March.

## Thank You for Your Generosity!

Your offerings provide the spiritual leadership, pastoral care and basic provision that allows Our Redeemer's to meet the needs of the community we lovingly share. Ways to give:

**ONLINE GIVING:** Go to [ourredeemers.net](http://ourredeemers.net), and click on the "Giving" tab OR call (206)783-7900 x101

**MOBILE GIVING APP:** Download the free "Vanco" app. Search for "Our Redeemers Lutheran Church"

**MAIL A CHECK:** Made out to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church and mail to 2400 NW 85th St., Seattle, 98117

**DONATE STOCK:** Visit [ourredeemers.net](http://ourredeemers.net)-click on the "Giving" tab and find "Give...via Donation of Stock" link

**SET UP OR UPDATE YOUR AUTOMATIC GIVING:** Contact Administrator Karie Stearns ([administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net), 206-783-7900 x101). She is happy to help you and answer all your giving questions.





# Social Justice



## Beach Cleanup Retreat by Sonja Braasch

*"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." -John Muir*

Our Redeemer's Beach Cleanup Weekend was on April 20th in honor of Earth Day 2024!

Nineteen of us gathered for the cleanup event on the Quinault Indian Nation beach near Point Grenville. We were given special access to their beach for this event as the beaches are open to Tribal Members only.

We lucked out on the weather. The view toward Point Grenville was spectacular!



We picked up some interesting garbage like bedside commodes, parts of an old refrigerator, and of course lots of plastic bottles. **This year's theme was Planet vs. Plastics.** Even though there was a smaller number of participants from Our Redeemer's this year we all felt a sense accomplishment caring for Mother Earth! Thirteen of us gathered for an evening featuring a chili dinner with all the fixings.

Thanks to Paul and Maria Kalina for organizing the event and preparing the chili dinner! Good, fun fellowship had by all...





2400 NW 85th Street  
Seattle, WA 98117

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

**return service requested**

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM Informal Worship  
11 AM Traditional Worship

Stream Online (11 AM)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/OurRedeemers](https://facebook.com/OurRedeemers)  
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>

**Church office hours:**  
Monday-Thursday  
10 AM - 3PM

# Neighborhood Recycling Roundup

**FREE RECYCLING OF  
unwanted electronics  
styrofoam packaging**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**



**SATURDAY**

**May 11  
10am - 2pm  
2400 NW 85th  
Ballard**

*Hosted by*  
**Our Redeemer's  
Lutheran Church  
and Northminster  
Presbyterian Church**



Follow Us on Instagram!



Like Us on Facebook!



View Our YouTube Channel