

NOVEMBER 2021



# TheVisitor

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Summer 2022  
Holden Village  
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A Community in the Model of Christ

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# This Month at Our Redeemer's

November 1, Monday	7 PM - Faith Formation Team
November 2, Tuesday	7 PM - Executive Team Meeting 7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates Meeting
November 3, Wednesday	Staff Development Day - Office Closed 10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study   Zoom <b>4 PM - Centering Prayer</b> 7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir   In Person
November 4, Thursday	3 PM - Community Engagement Task Force 4 PM - Staff Meeting 7 PM - Informal Ensemble Rehearsal
November 5, Friday	LWR In-Gathering
November 6, Saturday	LWR In-Gathering 9 AM - Liturgical Arts Meeting 10:30 AM - Caring Community Team   Sandy Box' home
<b>November 7, Sunday</b> <b>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b> <b>Confirmation Sunday</b> (turn you clocks back 1 hour)	9 AM - Sprouts Class   In Person <b>9 AM - Informal Worship</b> 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes   In Person 10 AM - Adult Forum   Fellowship Hall East <b>11 AM - Traditional Worship</b>
November 9, Tuesday	7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates Meeting
November 10, Wednesday	10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study   Zoom 1 PM - Staff Meeting <b>4 PM - Centering Prayer</b> 7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir   In Person
November 11, Thursday	7 PM - Informal Ensemble Rehearsal
<b>November 14, Sunday</b> <b>HARVEST PARTY@ NOON</b>	9 AM - Sprouts Class   In Person <b>9 AM - Informal Worship</b> 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes   In Person 10 AM - Adult Forum   Fellowship Hall East <b>11 AM - Traditional Worship</b>
November 16, Tuesday	7:00 PM - Council Meeting 7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates Meeting
November 17, Wednesday	10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study   Zoom 1 PM - Staff Meeting <b>4 PM - Centering Prayer</b> 7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir   In Person
November 18, Thursday	3 PM - Community Engagement Task Force 7 PM - Informal Ensemble Rehearsal   In Person
November 20, Saturday	<b>Trans Day of Remembrance</b>
<b>November 21, Sunday</b>	9 AM - Sprouts Class   In Person <b>9 AM - Informal Worship</b>   Our Redeemer's 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes   In Person 10 AM - Adult Forum   Fellowship Hall East <b>11 AM - Traditional Worship</b>   Our Redeemer's 2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner 4 PM - Madonna's Book Group   Tricia Kloth's home
November 24, Wednesday	10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study   Zoom 1 PM - Staff Meeting <b>4 PM - Centering Prayer</b>
November 25, Thursday <b>THANKSGIVING</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day Service Event   Ballard Commons</b> Office Closed
November 26, Friday	Office Closed
November 27, Saturday	10 AM - Christmas Tree Put Up / Giving Tree Arrives
<b>November 28, Sunday</b> <b>ADVENT BEGINS</b>	9 AM - Sprouts Class   In Person <b>9 AM - Informal Worship</b> 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes   Zoom or In Person 10 AM - Adult Forum   Fellowship Hall East <b>11 AM - Traditional Worship</b>

## OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Katherine Hawks, Pastor  
kathyh@ourredeemers.net
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor  
pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net
- Elizabeth Dickinson, Social Justice Coordinator  
outreach@ourredeemers.net
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director  
karen@ourredeemers.net
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator  
administrator@ourredeemers.net
- Debbie Lematta, Communications Coordinator  
communications@ourredeemers.net
- Katlin Dickinson-Laurence, Office Coordinator/Welcome Minister  
office@ourredeemers.net
- Jordan Holt, Nursery Attendant

Phone: 206-783-7900

Email: office@ourredeemers.net

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



## From the Pastor...

I just assumed it would be WONDERFUL! for so many of us to be able to reconnect in person. And it has been!

But, it turns out reconnecting isn't exactly automatic. Not like it was on Leap Day 2019 at our St. Paddy's Day auction, as Irish dancers kicked up their heels, the Guinness flowed, and we had such shenanigans together, raising money for Our Redeemer's' mission.

Nope. Now, there are masks, safe distances, and tiny individual communion chalices to contend with. There are also the months of life we haven't shared. The pandemic has been different for each of us, and has changed us in different ways. We've been dislodged out of the rhythms of our church friendships and connections.

**So, I guess it shouldn't surprise us we can't immediately fall back into easy familiarity.** It takes time, effort, and intentionality to truly reconnect. To remember to look for newcomers to welcome. To find the right spot to sit in our renovated sanctuary.

In the next couple months, Council and staff will be exploring how to help us reconnect. For instance, we're looking for ways to allow virtual worshipers and in-person worshipers to at least see one another, and maybe even say "hi!" during coffee hour.

One of the best new ways to reacquaint ourselves will be offered in the adult forums beginning 10 AM Sunday, November 7: **Reconnecting! Sharing Our Own Sacred Stories.** Each Sunday two people will share their faith/life journey, a lot like what happens in our "Journey" small groups for new members. We hope you will both listen and share! Some great prompts will be offered to get you started, or you can chart your own course (see page 9). Sally Parker-Henderson brings the idea from another church where members loved it so much they did it the whole year!

Meanwhile, the fabric of our faith and our congregation continues to grow ever stronger. November overflows with people and events that inspire deep gratitude:

- For blessings sent world-wide through our Lutheran World Relief quilters and school kit providers and assemblers, and container packers
- For our beloved departed on All Saints Sunday (November 7)
- For our young people as they affirm their faith (November 7, 11AM)
- For our congregation's joy-filled generosity, as we celebrate at our Harvest Party (November 14)
- For all our neighbors – volunteering and gathering for the re-imagined Thanksgiving Feast

AND, most of all, that Our Redeemer's' caring, faith, values, mission, and relationships – still flourish.

As our recent Call to Worship says:  
*We have come on journeys of our own,  
To a place where journeys meet.*

*So, here, in this shelter house,  
Let us take time together.  
For when paths cross and pilgrims gather,  
There is much to share and celebrate.*



THANKS BE TO GOD!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen H. Hawk".

Pastor Kathy

## Harvest Party Sunday, November 14, Noon

**We did it! You are invited!** Join us on Sunday, November 14th after the 11 AM service for a time of celebration and giving thanks. **Together, we will announce the results of our campaign and the pledges thus far, and then the harvest party will honor and thank everyone involved in "Opening Doors" our generosity campaign.** If you have not yet pledged, you will be invited to turn in your pledge card. If you have already pledged to the mission budget or the capital campaign, you are invited to make a "First Fruits" gift toward your pledge on that day, honoring God and honoring your gift. Fun and festivities are planned for all ages!



# Worship and Music



## Putting Up the Christmas Tree

On Saturday, November 27th at 10AM we will be putting up the LARGE Christmas tree in the sanctuary, and rearranging the seating in the space. We will need 5-10 volunteers with good backs and attitudes to help us with the tree and the chairs. Please contact Pastor Gretchen if you are willing and able to help with this most important and festive Advent task.

## Centering Prayer Returns

Wednesdays, 4:00-4:30PM – In Person

*Be still and know that I am God. –Psalm 46:10*

When was the last time you felt deeply peaceful? In touch with yourself? Or open to God?

Centering prayer is simply a way we seek to open ourselves to God, whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than choosing – and beyond the limits of our thoughts.

**These are ancient practices, and give us a chance to cultivate silence, perhaps carrying some with us into our daily lives.**

At Our Redeemer’s, we begin with recorded Gregorian chant at 3:50 PM – through 4:10 PM; then a bell is rung, and we are quiet for 20 minutes, with a word we’ve chosen to help us remember our aim of being open to God (“peace”, “grateful”, or something else that has perhaps been a channel to God for us in the past). We return to the word again and again, for focus. And at 4:30 PM the bell is rung again. Danielle Modeen, our leader, always shares a very brief prayer or reading. And then we depart.

This is not a dramatic time. And the only participation it requires from you is our willingness to be present, be quiet, and be open. As we return week after week, the stillness and sometimes the insights that arise in us, become a gift and an anchor in our week.

Please join us! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kathy.

## Christmas Eve Help Request

On December 24th we will need additional help with ushering, communion, welcome, and making our worship-house ready for guests and visitors. If you are willing to help both the week before and the day of Christmas Eve, please contact Katlin ([office@ourredeemers.net](mailto:office@ourredeemers.net)) to let her know. It takes a village, and this is a wonderful way to get involved.



**We Count on Each Other**  
**Your giving is what sustains and nurtures our ministries. In these times, it’s essential that you make an investment in our future.**

**Online Giving:** Go to [ourredeemers.net](http://ourredeemers.net), and click on “Giving” tab to see our online giving options, OR call Karie at (206)783-7901.

**Mobile Giving App:** Download the free “Vanco” app and search for Our Redeemers Lutheran Church and follow the instructions.

**Mail a Check:** Write a check out to Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church. Mail to 2400 NW 85th St., Seattle, 98117.

**Donate Stock:** Click on “Giving” tab on our website and find the “Give to Our Redeemer’s via Donation of Stock” link.



# Worship and Music



## Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 10 PM

There's a holiness and a festive joy all wrapped up as one when we gather as a congregation to celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve! Please join us as we sing Christmas carols accompanied by orchestral instruments, and hear the beloved story of Emmanuel, God With Us. It will feel even more special since we weren't able to meet in person last Christmas. We'll share the glow of candlelight in singing the traditional "Silent Night," and go out sharing "Joy to the World!"

All are welcome!

## Beer & Carols

Tuesday, December 14th, 7 PM

Join us in the narthex and on the front patio for a fun time of singing and imbibing. Bring your favorite festive beverage, and sing along inside or outside. We'll have a firepit, and a holly jolly good time celebrating the impending birth of Jesus. If you're interested in helping to lead the singing, please contact Pastor Gretchen.

## Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 19

Calling all kids and actors and donkeys! We are planning on a Christmas pageant, but it is still to be determined if it will be online, in-person, or a hybrid mix of the two. **If you are interested in being in the pageant, or better yet, directing it**, please contact Pastor Gretchen and we'll get you involved!

## Blue Christmas

Tuesday, December 21, 7 PM

For many folks, Christmas is not all joy and jingles - especially in the past two pandemic years. If you, or someone you know, struggles through the holidays, Blue Christmas is a safe and holy place to bring grief, troubles, and heartache. We will also broadcast the service on Zoom.

## Christmas Eve Services

Friday, December 24, 4 PM & 10 PM

Celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord with song and story, meal and candlelight. There will be two services:

- 4 PM - Our child-friendly candlelight service, lasting approximately 45 minutes.
- 10 PM - Our traditional candlelight service with orchestra and choir.

## Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 26, 10 AM

One of the most moving and beautiful services of the church year is our service of Lessons and Carols on the first Sunday of Christmas each year. Join us online on Sunday morning, December 26 for a celebration of Lessons and Carols. Our fabulous choir and musicians have contributed a number of carols to the synod's pre-recorded service, and it will be a joy to sing along! You will find the service on our YouTube channel. <https://rb.gy/xu2nz8>

**Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour on Sunday, November 7!**



## Luciafest On Hold

We won't have Luciafest this year to protect the health of our unvaccinated younger ones. We hold onto hope for a beautiful festival in December 2022!

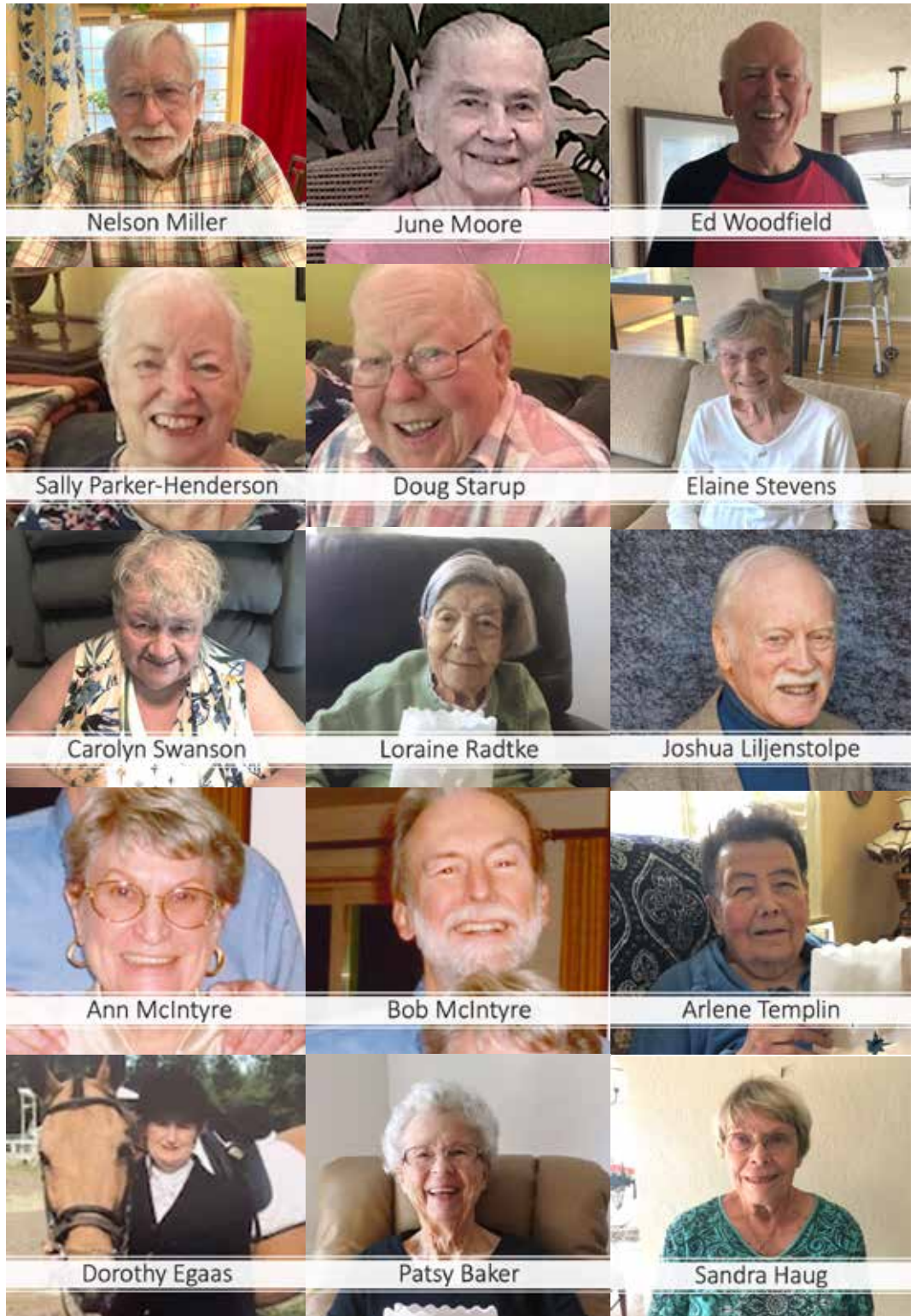


# Community

## Welcoming Wisdom

For Welcoming Wisdom this year, your Caring Community Team wanted to honor and share the 'light' that our elders have in the past and continue to shine in our world.

Some are no longer able to come to church, so please be reacquainted with our Welcoming Wisdom honorees. Enjoy these valued member's pictures here and enjoy special thoughts about them at this link: <https://ourredeemers.net/wp-content/uploads/Welcoming-Wisdom-Slides-web.pdf>



*continued next page*



# Community

## Welcoming Wisdom



**Caring Community Team** will have their next meeting on Saturday, November 6th at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be at the home of Sandy Box. Contact [Linda Carbone \(lindac19@comcast.net\)](mailto:lindac19@comcast.net) for more information. Join us!



# Community



Shelbe and Chauntae Kukowski

## President's Corner by Shelbe Kukowski

On September 26th an informational meeting was held between services that reviewed the work Council is helping facilitate this next year. **In particular, we referenced two Open Questions, of which a quick summary can be found below, that we feel are important to explore.** A tentative timeline of late fall was given for when this all-congregation exploration would begin.

Over the past month the Council has reassessed church capacity and energy to dive into this work together. Considering how much our staff is currently working on, the resurgence of Covid, the upcoming holidays and the desire to truly gather in-person to dig into these questions together, we have decided to pause our efforts this fall. Instead we will re-revisit timing and events we want to have as part of the exploration in February.

**We invite you to ponder two Open Questions, pray about them, and come energized in 2022 to offer your insight:**

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

- Guidelines for using our building in service of community
- Recommendations for ideas for council and congregation to consider pursuing

2. "What does the Lord require of us but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God?" (Micah 6:8). In this moment, how do we understand our calling as Lutherans/Christians to advocate for justice and to serve the world through expressions of God's love? In what specific ways do we as a congregation want to respond to this call and re-envision our social justice ministries for the next 3-5 years?

- Recommendations toward a social justice strategic plan and goal set to create that plan next year using this input
- All-congregation investment in infusing individual and congregational lives with justice lens.

**Goal:** Discussion on these questions (not necessarily answers!) to feed vision for ministry in the following year(s).

## Madonna's Book Group

The book group will meet next at church on Sunday, November 21st, 4 PM at Tricia Kloth's home. Our book is HOW YOU SAY IT, by Katherine D. Kinzler. All are welcome to join us! Contact Lynne for information: buckomneill@yahoo.com.

## Celebrating November Birthdays

1 Jennifer Seyler	11 Billy Tung	17 Jerry Andrews	25 Kelly Germann
6 Liam Dugaw	12 Robert McIntyre	21 Carol Alley	25 Dana Wright
7 Aivree Watkins	13 Ellen Arrington	21 Nancy Kristjanson	26 Doug Starup**
7 Lisa Watkins	14 Jim Freyberg**	21 Sharon LeVan	28 Dara Schoolcraft
8 Margaret Giesa	15 Elijah Abdullah	21 Gry Loklingholm	29 Cindy Knight
9 Jon Wright	15 Mary Gross	21 Leo Parks**	29 Lily Rallo
11 Amy Dovich	16 Max Myers	24 Dan Malone	29 Lorna Joy Williams

**\*\*SPECIAL BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO JIM FREYBERG, LEO PARKS, AND DOUG STARUP WHO ARE EACH CELEBRATING A 90+ BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH!**

*We give God thanks for the life of June Moore - September 25, 2021 (b. June 20, 1925).  
We pray that God will bring comfort to those who grieve.*





# Faith Formation



## Reconnecting! Through Our Sacred Stories Sundays, 10 AM | Fellowship Hall (East)

We of Our Redeemer's are finally in a moment of time when our faith community can once again worship together. We've waited for this a long while as COVID attached itself locally and globally and at the same time we remodeled our old building into a better space, in order to better welcome in the community and modernize the structure.

Considering all this, a few of us thought an exciting adult class this year would be to share our personal spiritual journeys with one another (similar to what we do in the Journey new member process). We've been apart for long enough that reconnecting will be a joy, and a class like this will be a new adventure in building back our beloved community.

We believe this could happen by having two people a Sunday morning tell us about their faith journey. It might seem like a tall order to do so, as finding words for these deep stories is something to ponder, but we will provide prompts and suggestions about where you might begin. It will be all yours to tell and a joy for others to hear.

If you'd be willing to sign up for one of these sessions, please let Sally Parker-Henderson, [wpainter26@yahoo.com](mailto:wpainter26@yahoo.com), know which Sunday works for you. Dana Wright, Sally Parker-Henderson and Pastor Kathy Hawks will also share their journeys of faith. Join us to explore together our deep spiritual selves.

- Pastor Kathy, Sally Parker-Henderson, Dana Wright

### How it Works:

Each participant will have 15 minutes to share their story. No questions will be asked afterward, and stories will remain within the room and not shared outside of class as these stories are personal and sacred.

The class sessions will begin November 7th and run through December 12th. We will then take a break and continue again in January.

### PLEASE JOIN US!

- Classes for ages 3 – 5 in person and online at 9:10 AM every Sunday.
- Classes for grades K-5 in person at 10:05 AM every Sunday
- Middle School Hangout for grades 6-7 at 10:05 AM every Sunday
- Confirmation Class at 10:05 AM, every Sunday in the church library.



**CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM THE LORD. THEY ARE A REWARD FROM HIM.** *Psalm 127*

### O-ROCK is off and running!

- Newly redone rooms!
- Children blessing us at the end of the service!
- Robust Pre-school and Early Elementary Program!
- Confirmation Class for our Teens!

### What we need!

- **TEACHING VOLUNTEERS AND HOSTS!**
  - One hour a month enriches your life and the lives of our children.
  - Easy to implement curriculum which mirrors the worship service
- Books and toys for the small to the tall, for our parent lounge.
- Gently used furniture for our parent lounge.



# Faith Formation

## Register

Deposits of \$100 per person to attend are due December 1st. Pick up the registration form at the office or [LINK TO DOWNLOADABLE REGISTRATION FORM.](#)

## Holden Village Registration

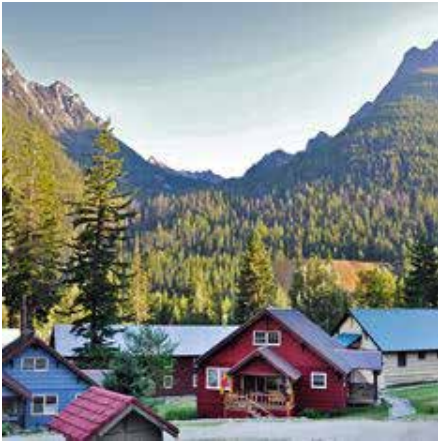
We are planning our congregational trip to Holden Village next summer, July 31–August 6, 2022! We hope that you can join us. Our trip is 6 nights long, and meals are included.

Based on what is currently listed on Holden’s website as of this writing, the cost is \$510/person for adults, \$390 for kids ages 4–17, with kids 3 and under free. If you are a two parent family, there is a flat rate of \$1,848 for 6 nights, and a one parent family is \$1,260. These costs are very much subject to change, so please bear that in mind as you are planning. You will also be responsible for purchasing your boat tickets on the Lady of the Lake as well to have passage to Holden Village.

We will try and reserve a group of 40 places, but, because of the pandemic, it remains to be seen the number of spots we can reserve.

The required deposit will be \$100 per person, due December 1, 2021, along with the form (downloadable using link at top of page or available at church). All people who are eligible to be vaccinated must show proof of vaccination to enter the Village.

If you have questions about Holden Village, or what it’s like, please visit their website at [www.holdenvillage.org](http://www.holdenvillage.org). If you have questions about financial assistance or scholarships, please contact [Pastor Gretchen](#) for a private conversation.





# Social Justice



## Giving Tree

The Giving Tree will arrive at Our Redeemer's November 27. Opportunities for giving will be hung on the tree and posted in the bulletin, the website, and emailed.

## Thanksgiving: Keeping the Spirit, Changing the Structure (Your Help Needed!)

Can you help us share Thanksgiving with our neighbors without homes?

- Make hand pies with a small group (2-4) in our church kitchen Thanksgiving week.
- Donate wool socks from now until November 21. Drop off at church.
- Distribute pies, wool socks and sleeping bags on Thanksgiving morning.
- Help make Thanksgiving dinner for our Road 2 Housing guests.

We will be distributing food with Edible Hope (who also provides the breakfast program offered every weekday) by St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Ballard Commons. To help out, SIGN UP HERE (<https://rb.gy/6g4fs9>). Thank you for doing what you can to keep the tradition of our community meal going!

## Thanksgiving Wool Socks Drive

There's a definite fall chill in the air! So for the next four weeks, we'll be collecting socks for people without homes who are exposed daily to the weather. Wool socks only, please! Socks can be delivered to the church. Thank you for your generosity!

## Ballard Sunday Dinner: November 21

We're looking for a second lead to work with Emilie, a couple cooks/servers, and a clean-up team. Please sign up to help here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084daea62ea1fe3-ballard>

## LWR Ingathering

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering is returning to Our Redeemer's Nov. 5-6! If you would like to help with set-up, loading or food hospitality, please contact Elizabeth, [outreach@ourredeemers.net](mailto:outreach@ourredeemers.net).

## A Declaration of the ELCA in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People

This month, in recognition of Indigenous People's Day, the ELCA issued a Declaration of confession and commitment to indigenous peoples both within and outside of the ELCA. It reads in part:

*We confess that we are complicit in the annihilation of Native peoples and your cultures, languages, and religions, and that we have refused to truly recognize the harm that we have caused our Native siblings. We confess that we must continue to learn more about our complicity and the roles our church played in dehumanizing Indigenous peoples, especially as it relates to the forced assimilation, abuse, and death in Indian boarding schools, adoption, and foster care; ... the breaking of sacred treaties meant to govern the relationships between Native sovereign nations and the U.S. federal government; and missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and relatives... We confess that we as an institution have not joined the struggle that Native youth are leading in the fight for climate justice, voting rights, and protection from COVID-19. Nor have we honored and learned from their wisdom and courage...*

We give thanks for the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutherans who have been present from the beginning of the ELCA and its predecessor bodies, sharing their wisdom, steadfastness, and leadership to help make our church better. Therefore, we commit to working toward the elimination of racism and white supremacy that exists in our church's governance, leadership, congregations, and membership... We commit to honor Native leadership, learn from them, and secure a place for that leadership at decision-making tables... (Read in full at [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org).)





2400 NW 85th Street  
Seattle, WA 98117

www.ourredeemers.net  
206-783-7900

**return service requested**

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM - Informal

11 AM - Traditional

In-Person or

Virtually:

On Facebook:

facebook.com ourredeemers and

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

#### CENTERING PRAYER

4 PM - Wednesdays

In-Person

## A Double Gift on November 7th

### All Saints Sunday

Join us in a day of remembrance of all those who have come before us in faith and now have joined the great choir of heaven.

**You are invited to bring a framed photo of a loved one who has passed on, and we will be setting them in the windowsills of our sanctuary, honoring their names and their visages in our worship.**

There will be a time of lighting candles, and naming their names aloud. We will honor the names of those who have died in this year with the ringing of a bell.

### Confirmation

On November 7th we will also be celebrating the **Affirmation of Baptism** for four of our young people who have completed their confirmation studies and requirements: **Torin Ege, Skylar Perry, Sebastian (Bash) Savo and Raleigh Somm**

Join us in congratulating them and their families! As we are not holding our "brunquet" in their honor this year, **we invite you to write notes of encouragement** to these students as they continue on their journey of faith. Notes can be sent to Pastor Gretchen, who will give them to the students.



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