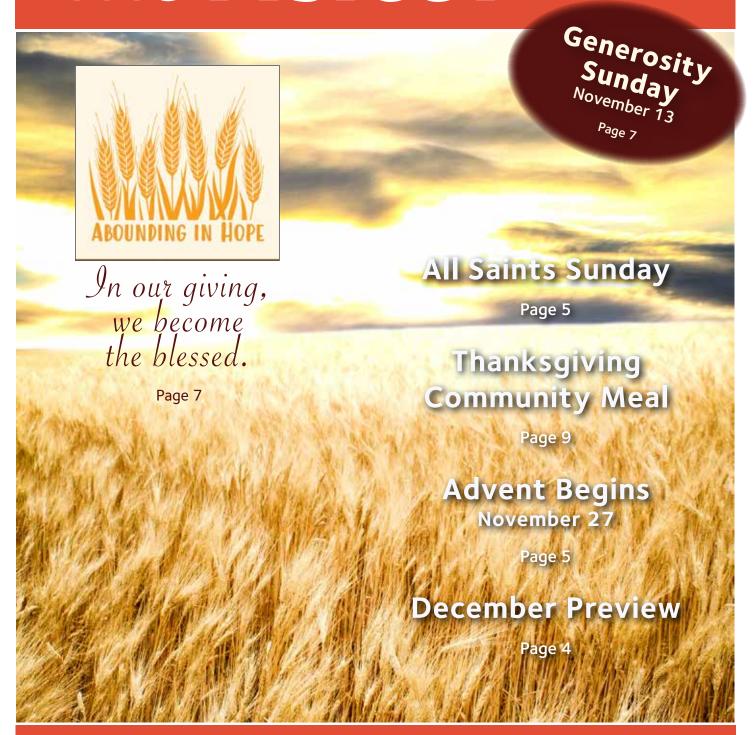
NOVEMBER 2022



TheVisitor



A Community in the Model of Christ

From the Pastor...

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

- Ephesians 4

My father-in-law, Bob, is a parking lot usher at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison, WI. The congregation is large enough, and the parking lot is small enough, that the cars need to be parked in stacks. He was the first person anyone ever met at that church, in his bright orange vest and a warm and friendly smile, even when it was -20 degrees in January. When I asked him what he liked about that ministry, he said, "What do you mean, 'ministry?' I'm just a volunteer!" And I said, "What you do out there in that parking lot more than just helping. It IS ministry! You are the hands and feet of Christ, welcoming people to God's house." And he was quiet after that, thinking about what that might mean.

Most of us volunteer in different ways in our community and in this congregation. We offer our time, skills, and gifts freely to the causes we care about and the organizations that move our hearts.

But as Christian people, that movement of our hearts is more than just an urge, it's a vocation – it's a calling to service, put into our hearts by God's spirit.

In our baptisms we make a covenant with God to serve all people, following the example of Jesus. In that promise we learn that being a servant is more than being a volunteer or a helper, it's something we are called to do. What we do with our time and our gifts matters deeply to God!

The word vocation literally means calling – and like Paul writes, we are called to one hope. As we work our way through this long and winding transition, we find ourselves in a disorienting space when the past as we knew it is no longer available to us, while the future has not yet taken shape. Yet we do not lose hope, and we dig into our ministering at church and around the neighborhood.

Trusting that God will guide us into a future filled with joy is not always the easiest thing to do.

So while we wait, let's practice our servanthood with a new way of thinking of it. Let's level up! Instead of being a volunteer who makes coffee, you could be the "Minister of Hospitality!" You're not handing out bulletins, you're the "Minister of Ushering." We could use a few new "Ministers of Food Bank Deliveries," and "Ministers of O-Rock Classes."

Part of our healing process with all the change and uprooting we have been through in the last three years is remembering who we are, and that God is faithful. And we can start that by re-investing in the calling to which we have been called.



Faithfully,

Pastor Gretchen

Geldun Verbey

Celebrating November Birthdays!

- Jennifer SeylerLiam Dugaw
- 7 Aivree Watkins
- 7 Lisa Watkins
- 8 Margaret Giesa
- 9 Jon Wright
- 11 Amy Dovinh
- 11 Billy Tung
- 12 Robert McIntyre

- 13 Ellen Arrington
- 14 *Jim Freyberg
- 15 Elijah Abdullah
- 15 Mary Gross
- 16 Max Myers
- 17 Jerry Andrews21 Nancy Kristjanson
- 21 Sharon LeVan21 Gry Loklingholm

- 21 *Leo Parks
- 24 Dan Malone
- 25 Kelly Germann
- 25 Dana Wright26 *Doug Starup
- 28 Dara Schoolcraft
- 29 Lily Rallo
- 29 Lorna Joy Williams

^{*}Birthday Blessings to Jim Freyberg, Leo Parks, and Doug Starup who are celebrating their 90+ Birthdays in November!

This Month at Our Redeemer's

1 PM - Psalms for Autumn Bible Study | Our Redeemer's (preceded November 1, Tuesday

by 12:45 PM Centering Prayer)

6:30 PM - LiVE - Synod-Wide Weekly Bible Study | Online

IN THIS NEWSLETTER November 2, Wednesday 10:30 AM - Bible Study | Zoom

6:30 PM - LiVE - Intro to Womanist Interpretation | Online

6:30 PM - Kid's Choir

7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

November 3, Thursday 4 PM - Staff Meeting

7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal

November 5, Saturday 9 AM - Liturgical Arts Team 8 FAITH FORMATION

November 7, Monday

November 6, Sunday 9 AM - Informal Worship

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Sprouts: 9 AM | In-Person 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes & Confirmation | Downstairs

> 10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship

9 AM - Quilters | Fellowship Hall

4 PM - Service of Grief and Healing | Our Redeemer's

OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

November 8, Tuesday 12:30 PM - Staff Meeting 1 PM - Psalms for Autumn Bible Study | Our Redeemer's (preceded

by 12:45 PM Centering Prayer)

6:30 PM - LiVE - Synod-Wide Weekly Bible Study | Online

6:30 PM - Executive Meeting

November 9, Wednesday 10:30 AM - Bible Study | Zoom

5:30 PM - LiVE - Intro to Womanist Interpretation | Online

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

7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal November 10, Thursday

November 12, Saturday 9 AM - Lucia Rehearsal

November 13, Sunday 9 AM - Informal Worship GENEROSITY SUNDAY Sprouts: 9 AM | In-Person

10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes & Confirmation I Downstairs

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall 10 AM - Swedish Pancakes | Fellowship Hall

11 AM - Traditional Worship

November 14. Monday 9 AM - Quilters | Fellowship Hall

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting November 15, Tuesday 6:30 PM - LiVE - Synod-Wide Weekly Bible Study | Online

7 PM - Church Council

7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates

November 16, Wednesday 10:30 AM - Bible Study | Zoom

5:30 PM - LiVE - Intro to Womanist Interpretation | Online

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

November 17, Thursday 7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal

November 20, Sunday 9 AM - Informal Worship

Sprouts: 9 AM | In-Person

10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes & Confirmation | Downstairs

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

11 AM - Traditional Worship

2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner | Ballard First Lutheran

November 21, Monday Thanksgiving Prep

9 AM - Quilters | Fellowship Hall

November 23, Wednesday Office Closed 10:30 AM - Bible Study | Zoom

November 24, Thursday **THANKSGIVING**

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2 FROM THE PASTOR

5 WORSHIP & MUSIC

9 SOCIAL JUSTICE

10 COMMUNITY

7 LIVING GENEROUSLY

· Gretchen Mertes, Pastor pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net

· David Hahn, Transition Facilitator pastordavid@ourredeemers.net (651)587-4417

 Phillipa Dugaw, Volunteer Coordinator volunteer@ourredeemers.net

· 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

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 continued

continued from previous page

Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour on Sunday, November 6!

November 25, Friday Office Closed

November 26, Saturday 9 AM - Noon - The Greening of the Church, Advent Preparations

November 27, Sunday 9 AM - Informal Worship
ADVENT 11 AM - Traditional Worship

November 28, Monday 9 AM - Quilters | Fellowship Hall

November 29, Tuesday 6:30 PM - LiVE - Synod-Wide Weekly Bible Study | Online

November 30, Wednesday 10:30 AM - Bible Study | Zoom

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

December Preview

Saturday, November 26 9am-noon The Greening of

the Church

Sunday November 27 9am & 11am Worship

ADVENT 1 The Giving Tree Begins

Sunday December 4 9am & 11am Worship ADVENT 2

Date TBD Caroling

Thursday December 8 6:30PM Contemplative Midweek Worship

Sunday December 11 9am & 11am Worship

ADVENT 3 5pm Luciafest

Tuesday December 13 7pm Beer & Carols

Thursday December 15 6:30PM Contemplative Midweek Worship

Sunday December 18 9am Worship

ADVENT 4 11am Christmas Pageant

Tuesday December 20 7pm Blue Christmas

Thursday December 22 6:30pm Contemplative Midweek Worship

Saturday December 24 4pm Family Christmas Eve Worship

10pm Traditional Christmas Eve Worship

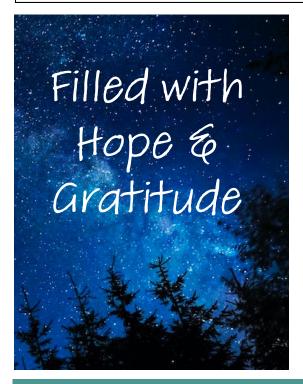
Sunday December 25 10am Christmas Day Service

Sunday January 1st 10am New Year's Day Service

All Saints' Sunday

On **Sunday, November 6th** we remember All Saints Day – where we pray for those who have died in the last year, and remember the saints of our lives. **You are invited to bring a photo or memento of a loved one to place in the church windows during worship.** (Please note your name on the back, so it can be returned the following week.)

Candles are lit and a bell rung as the names of our members who have passed are read during the prayers of the people. It is a celebration and a gift to be mindful that our separation is only temporary. On this Sunday we will also celebrate the gift of Holy Baptism, which is the sacrament that connects us to the Communion of Saints. Thanks be to God!



Advent Advent begins Sunday, November 27th

Advent is a season of traditions and business, a season of anticipation and agitation, and a season we sometimes miss altogether as we leap into Christmas and celebrations with friends and family.

This Advent, we are focusing on the theme "Filled with Hope & Gratitude." Inspired by a new hymn from the new hymnal All Creation Sings, we look at Advent as a time of God bringing justice and joy to the earth, the liberating work of God in the world. Each week we will light the candles on the Advent Wreath, and speak together words of confession and forgiveness as we wait and watch for the arrival of Christ.

On Thursdays in December (6:30pm - December 8th, 15th, and 22nd), you are invited to a 30-minute contemplative prayer service "Making Ready for Holy Disruption," with the themes of "Breathing, Releasing, and Receiving." In an effort to give us a chance to slow down and breathe, this service will have song, silence, word, and prayer together. All are welcome!

"Greening the Church" - Can You Help?

Do you love decorating for the holidays? Are you around Thanksgiving weekend? The Liturgical Arts team needs your help! The team will be putting up trees and lights – inside and out, and preparing for the season and your help is welcomed! Contact Marie Lessard (lutequist@yahoo.com) if you are able to participate. We will be working on Saturday, November 26th from 9am-noon. There will be snacks and festivities for all helpers as well.

Thank you for making our church a beautiful and welcoming space for all!





Christmas Eve Help Needed

December 24, 4 PM & 10 PM

Celebrating Christmas Eve takes many hands and helpers at Our Redeemer's! You and your family are invited to be a part of the ministry we offer to our community. This is a day when we have the most visitors, and we want to be wonderful hosts by offering everyone an opportunity to experience the joy of the birth of the Christ child and the warmth of God's grace and love.

There are two services that day:

4pm Family Christmas Eve Worship: This kid-centered service is 45 minutes long, and has all the energy and singing a person could hope for. Help is needed with:

- Greeting: Standing in the narthex with a smile and a welcome!
- Ushering: Handing out bulletins and candles, helping with the offering and communion.
- Communion Assistants: Setting up, serving, and cleaning up holy communion.
- An Interactive Sermon Time: Might be a drama, might be a story, might be puppets, who knows? But it will be fun!
- Technology: Lighting and sound for the service.

10pm Traditional Christmas Eve Worship: This service involves choir and orchestra, handbells and candles, and the beautiful telling of the Christmas story. Help is needed with:

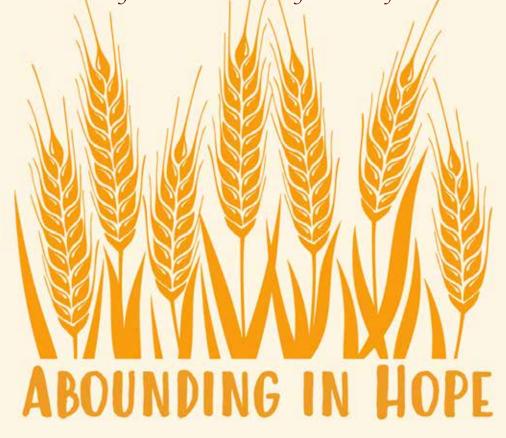
- Greeting: Standing in the narthex with a smile and a welcome!
- Ushering: Handing out bulletins and candles, helping with the offering and communion.
- Communion Assistants: Setting up, serving, and cleaning up holy communion.
- Musicians: Bells, orchestra, choir we welcome your gifts!
- Technology: Lighting and sound for the service.

Please contact Mandy Neill (welcome@ourredeemers.net) if you are willing and able to help with one of our most important days of the year. What a gift to serve on the day we receive our greatest gift - the Christ child!



Generosity Sunday is November 13th. Please bring your pledge cards to worship with you. We will celebrate with a **Swedish Pancake breakfast** at 10:00am between services. God is so good!

"Return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."



In the past two weeks, we have been delving into what it means to be people who are "abounding in hope." We have explored the gifts of God's mercy through the story of the humble Pharisee, and on the Sunday of the Reformation we experienced the depth of God's grace through the affirmation of faith of two of our 9th grade students. In the coming weeks, we will be reminded of the blessings of God that come in unexpected places, and reminded of the hope that "does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts." (Romans 5:5)

As faithful and generous people, and as bearers of the light of Christ to the world, we find that the more we give ourselves away, the more abundance we receive. The greater our trust in God to work in us and through us, the lighter our burdens and the greater our joy.

When you receive your (much simpler, lighter) pledge packet, you are invited to remember all that you have received from God, and to consider increasing your pledge to our mission budget. Every gift this congregation gives increases the range and quality of the joy that we can spread to others through justice and generosity.

It is a blessing to serve this congregation, and a joy to be ministry partners together in the community. Let's do good things together through God's Spirit, so that all may be abounding in hope!





Adult Forums in November

Sundays, 10 AM | Fellowship Hall

"What does it mean to be church?" This month we explore the simple, and not so simple question, perhaps, about what it means to be church in today's complex, pluralistic society. The world has changed, and yet, at times, the church can still function as if the world hasn't changed at all.

- How do we make sense of all these cultural changes?
- What does it mean for us to be church amid such varied spiritual commitments, and interests?
- How can we still hold on to Jesus when sometimes our neighbors do not seem to be as interested in Him as we are?

Let's gather together, and find the conversation that we need to be having as a church in order to be the faithful witnesses the Spirit is calling us to be!

The LiVE Project is a networked lay learning community discerning God's call; theologically thoughtful, culturally responsive, and communally engaged; connecting churches and forming Christian public leaders; a flexible, hybrid model of learning: Zoom and face to face.



The LiVE Project: Upcoming Offerings

Learn More https://rb.qy/yyfzcc

- Engaging Younger Generations: Monday 6:30-8pm, Nov. 5
- Acts Bible Study: Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29
- Intro to Womanist Interpretation: Wednesdays 6:30-8pm, Nov. 2, 9, 16
- LiVE Retreat* "The Spirituality of Waiting" Saturday Dec. 3, 9am-3pm at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

*Retreat Description: How will we wait? The Art of Gathering by Priya Parker invites unique ways for us to explore the contours of waiting and community interaction. The season of Advent gives us an opportunity to pause, and to consider how our ways of gathering open up space to be God's people. Come and experience practical tips for how you and your communities of faith can deepen their callings by cultivating communities of belonging and inclusion. Lunch will be provided.



Christmas Pageant!

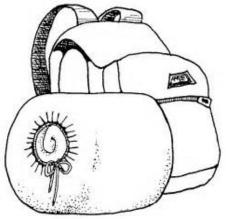
On December 18th, we will hold our annual Christmas pageant during the 11:00 am worship service. Children of all ages are invited to participate. We have one rehearsal on Saturday, December 17th at 10:00am. Roles and costumes will be assigned that day. If your child is hoping for a particular role, please let Pastor Gretchen know in advance.

These are the roles:

Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds (and sheep), Gabriel, Angels, the Magi (at least three, can be more!), Stars, and singers.

The pageant is simple, and traditional, and is a lot of fun for everyone involved. Be encouraged and get involved!





Sleeping Bag Contributions Help Keep Someone Warm!

Each year, Our Redeemer's collects donations to purchase sleeping bags for the ever-growing unhoused in Seattle.

Consider making a donation of \$30 to help keep someone just a bit warmer this winter. Bags will be distributed at our Thanksgiving Community Meal. Envelopes are on the "Count Me In" clipboards, or text (206)717-8465 and type "Bags". Thank you!



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 and emailed.

A Thanksgiving Community Meal for All

Thursday, November 24, 12 - 1 PM | Fellowship Hall

Each year, the good folks of Our Redeemer's host anybody and everybody for a nocost Thanksqiving meal from 12 - 1pm on Thanksqiving Day.

It takes about 108 (or more!) volunteers to pull Thanksgiving off, and it's an amazing gift not only to those who get to taste it, but especially to those who prepare it and clean it up afterward.

In addition to the essential cooks and servers, we have one very important volunteer position: Table Hosts. Each table will have one person who dines with the folks who are there, helps to make sure that everyone gets food, distributes the sleeping bag tickets, and gets to know the people with whom they are sitting. It's a special kind of a job – ensuring that grace is shown and that every person is honored at this meal of gratitude.

Please sign-up to help out at https://rb.qy/abjktk. The categories are:

- Prepare the meal
- Carve the turkeys
- Set the tables
- Cook the meal
- Table Hosts
- Dishing up the meal
- Greeting guests
- Serving and Clearing
- Distribution of sleeping bags
- Washing dishes
- Cleaning up
- Photographer

Monetary donations to offset the costs of giving away 150 new sleeping bags are greatly appreciated! Due to the popularity of this opportunity to serve our community, we are asking that all helpers sign up in advance of this event. Once all the positions are filled, we cannot accept more help.

If you have questions contact Phillipa Dugaw (<u>volunteers@ourredeemers.net</u>) or Lisa Thompson (<u>egglayer@comcast.net</u>) What a great community, and a gracious gift! See you on Thanksqivinq!

Ballard Sunday Dinner Needs Your Help This Holiday Season

November 20 & December 18

We'd like to fill up ALL opportunities to help feed our hungry neighbors for November and December! Find a friend, sign up on Our Redeemer's Sign-Up Genius in the tab called "Ballard Sunday Dinner" (https://rb.gy/tuwavk). We will mentor you (if you want) in planning a meal, shopping, or leading in cooking. Try it—it's fun and rewarding!







CAN YOU HELP OUT?

Get details and schedules by clicking here or using the QR code below. Once on the volunteer page you can toggle between the various needs using the tabs at the top of the **page.** Not sure where or how to be of service at Our Redeemers? Click here, use the OR code below, or contact Phillipa at volunteer@ourredeemers. net.



Renewed Energy!

by Phillipa Dugaw, Volunteer Coordinator

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

Okay friends, are you ready? As you read this I need you to stand up (if you're able) and if you're not, you can still participate. Because we are going to get ourselves ready for the big season ahead of us. Ready!?...Take three deep breaths... Next I want you to just shake your body, shake out those cobwebs. (Don't stop shaking until you know for sure that they are all gone.) Now, let that shake turn into a dance. Get excited, have fun, play some music, sing and think about how much joy you get out of sharing your time and talent! Now, sit down, look at the list below and let us know how you can help. Ask family members or friends to join you, make it a time of fellowship, maybe even a time of growth.

Here's just a short list of the events that are starting in November. We will need over 400 people to pull this off. Are you in?

- Thanksqiving Dinner
- Luciafest
- Decorating the Church
- Blue Christmas
- Christmas Eve Services
- Our Grief and Healing Service
- Generosity Sunday & Swedish Pancakes ...and so much more

See the directions at left to get more details. We look forward to seeing you in the building!

What is a Chrismon?

by Marie Nordquist, Liturgical Arts Team

Every year our sanctuary tree is decorated with white lights and some strange looking white and gold ornaments. What are they? They're Chrismons, shaped in the forms of ancient Christian symbols.

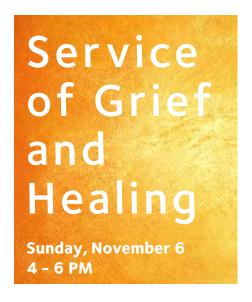
Chrismons, or Christ + Monogram, are the creation of Frances Kipps Spencer of Ascension Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Danville, Virginia. In 1957 she thought Ascension's sanctuary Christmas tree should have spiritually appropriate decorations and so she designed and created the white and gold ornaments, coining the word Chrismon - white for Jesus' purity and gold for God's majesty. Her ornaments have been adopted by Lutherans around the country for decorating homes and churches.

Irene Day, a longtime Our Redeemer's member, with the help of Our Redeemer's altar quild made the Chrismons we use today. Among the symbols on our tree are The Orb and Cross- Jesus dominion over the earth, Chi Rho-Christ's monogram, The Circle with Cross-Christ in Eternity, Fish and Loaves-Jesus feeding of the 5,000, Fish-ancient symbol of Christ's community, Crown-God's reign.

Our Chrismons are a little tired, they've been in use since the '60s, and are in need of repair or replacement; a few are beyond repair.

Are you crafty? Let's create a new generation of Chrismons! If you're interested in making new Chrismons for our collection, let us know by contacting volunteer@ourredeemers.net.





Service of Grief & Healing by Pastor David Hahn

November 6, 4 - 6 PM | Our Redeemer's

In early September, the Transition Team held listening sessions around the feedback from the questionnaire survey for our Ministry Site Profile. One of the things that became quite apparent is that during the past several months, if not last couple years during Covid, many folks in our community of faith have held on to grief in a variety of forms.

The team feels, and believes that we should have an all-congregational gathering to carve out space to name our grief, to acknowledge our losses, and to create space for God's Spirit to provide healing presence to the community as we move forward during this time of transition. All persons, families and children are invited to come to this important, all-congregational event on Sunday, November 6, 4-6pm. If you have any questions please contact pastordavid@ourredeemers.net.



If you have any questions about the transition feel free to contact any of the team members, or myself directly at pastordavid@ourredeemers.net.

Transition Team Update

by Pastor David Hahn, Transition Facilitator

First, I am so grateful for all the time, prayer and hard work the Transition Team (Meagan Minus, Bob Carlson, Kari Guddal, Lars Sveum, and Michael Hammett) is doing on your behalf as a congregation. They are a joy to do this ministry with, and I am appreciative of their commitment and perseverance to the complexities of this process. I ask that you continue to hold them in prayer as they work to complete the profile, and to discern the Spirit's leadership through this process.

Second, most recently the team has been involved interviewing church staff and congregational leadership through October and the beginning of November. These interviews will help provide further understanding of the congregational culture and needs, and to match them with an appropriate leader, pastor, or deacon, for Our Redeemer's future ministries.



One of the 60+ year old Chrismons used each Christmas at Our Redeemer's.

Luciafest

December 11, 5 PM | Our Redeemer's

Luciafest returns to Our Redeemer's Sunday, December 11th! Our traditional Swedish celebration of Saint Lucia's Day will have all the traditional trappings: Sankta Lucia, her attendants, star boys, Scandinavian goodies and dancing around the Christmas Tree.

Invite your friends and bring the family to this beloved tradition!

For information contact Marie Nordquist, <u>lutequist@yahoo.com</u>.





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 - 3 PM

Service of Grief and Healing Sunday, November 6 4 - 6 PM

An all-congregational gathering to name our grief, acknowledge our losses, and provide space for God's Spirit during this time of transition.

All persons, families, and children are invited.

our redeemer's

