

OCTOBER 2021



The Visitor



II Corinthians 9:8 "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.'"

A Community in the Model of Christ

This Month at Our Redeemer's (Opening Doors in Blue)

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On the Cover:

Pastors Kathy Hawks and Gretchen Mertes officially re-open Our Redeemer's doors on Sunday, September 12, 2021.

OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Katherine Hawks, Pastor
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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.



October 3, Sunday OPENING DOORS WEEK 1

9 AM - Sprouts Class | In Person
9 AM - Informal Worship
10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | In Person
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall East
11 AM - Traditional Worship
12:15 PM - Pet Blessing

October 4, Monday

7 PM - Faith Formation Team

October 5, Tuesday

11 AM - Road to Housing Meeting
1 PM - Circle of Connection | Our Redeemer's
7 PM - Executive Team Meeting
7 PM - Thanksgiving Feast Imagining

October 6, Wednesday

Staff Development Day - Office Closed
7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir | In Person

October 7, Thursday

3 PM - Community Engagement Task Force
3:45 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - Informal Ensemble Rehearsal

October 10, Sunday OPENING DOORS WEEK 2

9 AM - Sprouts Class | In Person
9 AM - Informal Worship
10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | In Person
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall East
11 AM - Traditional Worship
2 PM - Book Discussion - CASTE

October 11, Monday

7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates | Zoom

October 12, Tuesday

1 PM - Circle of Connection | Our Redeemer's

October 13, Wednesday

10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study | Zoom
1 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir | In Person

October 14, Thursday

7 PM - Informal Ensemble Rehearsal

October 16, Saturday

11 AM - Eco Tour of Duwamish Long House

October 17, Sunday OPENING DOORS WEEK 3

9 AM - Sprouts Class | In Person
9 AM - Informal Worship
10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | In Person
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall East
11 AM - Traditional Worship
4 PM - Madonna's Book Group | Our Redeemer's
6 PM - Advance Commitment Night | Nordic Museum

October 19, Tuesday

1 PM - Circle of Connection | Our Redeemer's
7:30 PM - Council Meeting

October 20, Wednesday

10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study | Zoom
1 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir | In Person

October 21, Thursday

3 PM - Community Engagement Task Force
7 PM - Informal Ensemble Rehearsal | In Person

October 24, Sunday OPENING DOORS WEEK 4

9 AM - Sprouts Class | In Person
9 AM - Informal Worship | Our Redeemer's
10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | In Person
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall East
11 AM - Traditional Worship | Our Redeemer's

October 26, Tuesday

1 PM - Circle of Connection | Our Redeemer's
7 PM - Theology on Tap

October 27, Wednesday

10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study | Zoom
1 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir | in-person

October 28, Thursday

7 PM - Informal Ensemble Rehearsal | In Person

October 31, Sunday COMMITMENT SUNDAY REFORMATION SUNDAY (WEAR RED)

9 AM - Sprouts Class | In Person
9 AM - Informal Worship
10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Zoom or In Person
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall East
11 AM - Traditional Worship

From the Pastor...

Isaiah 42:5-7

⁵ Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,*
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

We did it! ...What next?

There is so much to celebrate from the last few months!

- We moved back into our church building – from the sacristy to the offices.
- We celebrated Holy Communion together for the first time in 18 months.
- We re-dedicated our beautiful, safe, accessible building back to God with trumpets and blessing.
- We invited our neighbors to come and see (and have a delicious burger!)
- We started a few Faith Formation program with joy and laughter.
- We figured out how to be in-person and do online worship at the same time.
- We welcomed back our preschool friends from the Crown Hill Co-Op, Pack 100, and AA.

- We're planning to welcome new partners in our building as well!
- We continue to explore what it means to be safe and healthy together in this season.

In all these amazing adventures and accomplishments, as we continue to thank and praise God for the faithfulness that we have been shown, the healing God is continually bringing to our souls is a balm. My dear people, this has been a long haul of strange times and many of us are weary. The pandemic continues to throw curves, and we continue to bend and stretch to meet safety and community somewhere in the middle.

Through all of this, when we find a moment to take a deep breath, the underpinning of God's continuo holds us together saying, "I am with you... you are worthy... you are loved... I am healing you... you can rest... you are good."

So, the "What next?" I invite you to is to create time and room for God's Spirit to soothe and inspire you. As we move through the month of October, we have a beautiful devotional from Stephanie Running as part of our Opening Doors initiative. It is a lovely place to give yourself space to listen to God's quiet voice, and stay connected with this community of Christ – Our Redeemer's, where you are fully loved, fully welcomed, and fully wanted. Blessings on your breathing!



Pastor Gretchen Mertens

Congregational Retreat:
Holden Village Summer 2022
www.holdenvillage.org
Save the Date! July 31 – August 6
Look for the registration form in November.



Join us throughout October as we kick off 31 days of "Opening Doors" as we explore weekly themes through worship, teachings, and scripture that will be transformative for our congregation. "Opening Doors" asks that we open ourselves to God's call for the church's future.

Opening Doors Themes

Week 1: "Opening Doors: Making a way for God's Welcome"

Week 2: "Making a Way for the Spirit's Dance"

Week 3: "Making a Way for Justice to Grow"

Week 4: "Making a Way for Future Generations"

Week 5: "Making a Way for Whole-Hearted Generosity"

October Sermon Series: "Making a Way"

Join us on Sunday, October 3rd as we kick off a 5-week sermon series. Please worship with us at 9 AM or 11 AM Sundays in person or online.

October Adult Forums - Sundays 10 AM

Adult Forums start up again on October 3rd, 10 AM, between services! Join us each week in person as we explore the Opening Doors themes.

October Circles of Connection on Zoom

'Circles of Connection' continue at their usual times in October. We will use scripture and discussion topics related to our special "Opening Doors" emphases. If you would like to join a Circle of Connection group, please contact Pastor Gretchen. She will connect you with an existing group to fit your schedule.

Tuesday In-Person Circle of Connection (October 5, 12, 19, and 26)

An in-person "Circle" will meet in person each Tuesday in October at Our Redeemer's, with a focus on our Opening Doors weekly themes. Meet at 1 PM at Our Redeemer's.

A Daily Devotional

Look in your email starting October 1st for a daily devotional! The devotional is also found in your Opening Doors booklet.

Resources for Children and Families

Children are an important part of our congregation, and great examples of giving hearts! To better include them, we will be emailing Opening Doors activities to households with kids as well. Make sure to receive notifications by contacting Pastor Gretchen.

If you have questions about our generosity campaign, Opening Doors, or our Two Pledges for Two Purposes Capital Campaign, please contact campaign co-chairs Mike Hlastala (mike.hlastala@hotmail.com; (206)919-9392) or Margaret Berg (mvberg@msn.com; (206)264-5210.



Opening Doors

October Calendar

Find more details about Opening Doors at <https://ourredeemers.net/opening-doors-in-october>.

SUNDAY October 3
 "Making a Way for God's Welcome"

9 AM Informal Worship
10 AM Adult Forum - Lectio Divina Study of Matthew 5: 1-15 (The Beatitudes). Our guest presenter for the opening will be Fred Flickinger, Our Redeemer's member and musician.
11 AM Traditional Worship

SUNDAY October 10
 "Making a Way for the Spirit's Dance"

9 AM Informal Worship
10 AM Adult Forum - Guest Presenter: Cyndi Wolfe, "Art and the Holy Spirit". Cyndi is a weaver and fabric artist. She has made paraments and sacramental cloths for worship settings. Gospel lesson: Luke 1:26-38 (Annunciation).
11 AM Traditional Worship

SUNDAY October 17
 "Making a Way for Justice to Grow"

9 AM Informal Worship
10 AM Adult Forum - Guest Presenter: Elizabeth Dickinson, Social Justice Minister at Our Redeemer's
 Gospel lesson: John 6:4-14 (Feeding 5000).
11 AM Traditional Worship

SUNDAY October 24
 "Making a Way for Future Generations"

9 AM Informal Worship
10 AM Adult Forum- Guest Presenters: Rev. Chelsea Globe, UW Campus Pastor Cindy Ege, Elementary-age teacher, Our Redeemer's member and mother. Gospel lesson: Matthew 13:44-50 (treasure, pearl, fish).
11 AM Traditional Worship

SUNDAY October 31
 "Making a Way for Whole-Hearted Generosity"

COMMITMENT SUNDAY
REFORMATION SUNDAY
 (Don't forget to wear red!)

9 AM Informal Worship
10 AM Adult Forum - Guest Presenters: Adam Frantz, brewer, beer specialist, Our Redeemer's member Ronda Andrews: Hospitality specialist. Gospel lesson: John 2:1-11 (the wedding in Cana miracle).
11 AM Traditional Worship

TUESDAY October 5

1 PM Circles of Connection
 @ Our Redeemer's

TUESDAY October 12

1 PM Circles of Connection
 @ Our Redeemer's

TUESDAY October 19

1 PM Circles of Connection
 @ Our Redeemer's

TUESDAY October 26

1 PM Circles of Connection
 @ Our Redeemer's



Community

Dedication Weekend

With joy and celebration (and trumpets!) we gathered together, in-person and online in our renovated building for worship and praise. With our Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor David Hahn presiding, we re-dedicated our building and spaces to the glory of God and the love of neighbor. Children were dancing, people were singing, and we were truly blessed.





Community





Community



Blessing of the Pets and Celebration of St. Francis

Sunday, October 3rd, 12:15 PM | Church Front Lawn

Thanks be to God for our furry and feathered companions on this earth! In the tradition of honoring St. Francis, who was a lover of all creatures great and small, we bless our pets on October 3rd. Join us after the 11 AM service for a blessing of your pet! All dogs, cats, birds, hamsters, lizards, snakes, fish and critters are welcome to participate. Bring in a photo if your pet can't be here in person. There will be medals for all pets, and treats for the cats and dogs in your life!

Madonna's Book Group

The book group will meet next at church on Sunday, October 17th, 4 PM.

Our book is TODAY WE GO HOME, by Kelli Estes. All are welcome to join us! Contact Lynne for information: buckomcneill@yahoo.com.

Celebrating October Birthdays

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Tricia Kloth | 11 Max Perry | 17 Tim Watkins | 25 Paul Hendricks |
| 2 Jean McCarthy | 12 Melanie Olson | 17 Hannah Wetter | 26 John Ellingboe |
| 2 Mike Simmonds | 13 Leta Neill | 18 Elizabeth Beranek | 26 Joey Niedner |
| 4 John DeTurk | 15 Marie Brissette | 18 Valerie Tung | 27 Madeleine Fowler |
| 4 Kathy Hawks | 15 Marjorie Miller | 19 *Maxine Hansen | 28 John Gibson |
| 6 Seren Kiggins | 15 Eliza Prentice | 19 Catrina Nyhus | 28 Sue Griffith |
| 7 Denise Ecklund | 16 Katlin Dickinson-
Laurence | 19 Skylar Perry | 29 Ron Simonsen |
| 7 Lily Lowe | 16 Karen Soine | 20 Shirley Jo Sigurdson | 30 Drew Barowicz |
| 9 Kari Guddal | 16 Kari Trigstad | 22 Bruce Jenkins | 30 Maria Maier |
| 9 Lynn Simonsen | 17 Linda Christenson | 22 Noel Wannebo | |
| 11 Patrick Brady | 17 Dave Eicke | 23 Zach McCarthy-
Fredericks | |
| 11 Jenny Fredericks | | | |

***A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY BLESSING TO MAXINE HANSEN WHO IS CELEBRATING A 90+ BIRTHDAY!**

We give God thanks for the life of Penny Fox - August 27, 2021 (b. 11/21/1925). We pray that God will bring comfort to those who grieve.



Faith Formation

Youth Formation Update

Our classrooms are coming along downstairs! HUGE thanks to all our volunteers who cleaned, prepped, painted, carpeted, hauled furniture, and basically made a huge change in our welcoming space! **Thank you: Betsy McGregor, Phillipa Dugaw, Stephanie Fowler, Kari Guddal, Kim Ward, Dana Wright, Alex Fidis, Sarah Uhlemann, Ryan Mertes, and Matt Grover!**



Remodeled downstairs classrooms

There is nothing more important in our life as Christians than to love and serve God. **One of the most important ways Jesus tells us to love and serve God is to honor and welcome children.** "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them," says Matthew 19:14. As a congregation, we are learning new and better ways to include and honor children fully in the body of Christ that is Our Redeemer's.

Our Redeemer's Nursery is available Sundays from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM beginning October 17! We are excited to announce that Jordan Holt has been hired as our Sunday morning Nursery Attendant. He is a life-long member of Our Redeemer's and brings a deep love of children and joy to our nursery. Welcome to the staff Jordan and thank you for serving our littlest ones!



Welcoming Jordan Holt, our new Nursery Attendant

The "Prayground" in the sanctuary is available to families with little ones. This intentional space helps them participate fully in worship in a way that is developmentally appropriate. As adults, we are learning to appreciate the wiggling and joy (and sometimes rebellion) that children bring to our worship times. You are invited to pray about how you might further welcome children into our worship.

Sprouts class is for 3-5 year olds, and helps children learn the joy of Jesus' love. Offered both in-person during the 9 AM service, and online at 10 AM on zoom, Sprouts is an energetic, fun, spontaneous group that reminds us exactly what Jesus was talking about when he said, "The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."



Our "Prayground" in the Sanctuary

Our Redeemer's Outstanding Church Kids – O-Rock! is our version of Sunday school. We welcome kids from kindergarten to 5th grade to explore Bible stories, get to know each other and caring adults, and invite questions about God, life, and everything they can imagine. It's on Sundays following the 9 AM service.

continued





Faith Formation

CONFIRMATION: SAVE THE DATE!

Confirmation will be on
Sunday, November 7th at
the 11 AM service.



Middle School Hang Out with Ms. Betsy is an opportunity for 6th & 7th graders to get to know each other, and learn ways to pray and care for the earth. Starting following the 9am service, this group meets in the “Upper Room”.

Confirmation is a catechumenate process for our 8th (and this year 9th) grade youth. We are introducing them officially to Lutheran theology, the “why” of Lutheran worship, and how the Bible was written and functions in our faith tradition. We also visit other houses of worship, and compare and contrast where there are similarities and differences. It’s a great experience!

All of these groups and classes and experiences happen because caring members of our congregation get involved, teach, volunteers, make snacks, ask children their names, and demonstrate respect and joyfulness as part of their faith. We would love for you (yes, you) to get involved with our little ones, because like I said at the beginning, Jesus calls us to do nothing less.

Thanks be to God for children, and for this congregation who holds them so dear! - Love, Pastor Gretchen Mertes

CONVERSATIONAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RECAP

Sunday, September 26, 2021 10 AM

About 60 people gathered in person and others joined virtually to learn what’s happening this fall in our congregation. Many of the topics were behind the scenes efforts, so it was good to get reports and have an opportunity to ask questions.

- Mike Hlastala (on the Vision-Aligned Building Team and Church Council) reported that with the exception of furniture stuck in supply chains and organ parts stuck in Germany, we 99.9% complete, on time and probably around \$150,000 under budget on our renovation project. Woohoo! We enjoyed hearing that news IN our building.
- Amy Dahlgren, our Treasurer, reported that while giving is behind the year-to-date budgeted amount, this is not alarming because giving is usually lowest in the summer.
- Emilie Purvine, Council Secretary, introduced us to “Open Questions” – a way to engage the congregation for 4-6 months in discussing and learning about matters critical to our future. This input will inform Council’s later recommendations. This year we are focusing on how

we best use our renovated building and other resources to engage the community, and created a social justice plan for the next 3-5 years. Details and events are in the planning stages.

- Carolyn Davis, Vice President, reviewed 4 task forces the council is focusing on this year: Constitutional Review, Financial Ministries Review, Nominating, and Sustainable Leadership Development. A liaison from council will support and bolster task forces. She also encouraged folks to step up and help make these (and other ministries) happen.
- Pastor Kathy Hawks thanked the Altar Care “Hall of Famers”: **Carleen See, Elaine Stevens** and **Jan Ward**. Together they represent well over 100 years of faithful, dedicated service ensuring space for worship is well-prepared. They are an inspiration of selfless service to all of us.
- Questions were invited.

Stay tuned for the next Conversational Congregational Meeting in January or early February!



Social Justice



Thanksgiving Plans & The Pandemic

How shall we continue our traditional Thanksgiving feast for those without homes, while also recognizing the constraints of the pandemic? Please join Elizabeth for a meeting on Tuesday, October 5 at 7:00 to plan a creative Thanksgiving outreach event! <https://zoom.us/j/91956051062?pwd=QnZkdDZxQ2VoUE01TXo2VlhtVkpuQT09>. Join by Phone Call: +1 (206) 337-9723

Lutheran World Relief – Thank You!

We have 100 school kits that will go to children in places like Ethiopia, Pakistan and the Ukraine! Thank you! You may have noticed that we packed into strong drawstring bags. These were made by artisans in Bangladesh who support themselves and their families through a fair trade business. So, our partnership with the Lutheran World Relief not only helps children get an education, but others to earn a livelihood.

Caste Book Discussion

October 10 at 2:00 PM

Join the Racial Justice Advocates to talk about your responses to the book *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson on October 10 at 2:00 PM. You don't have to have finished the whole book! RSVP soon at <https://forms.gle/VyqUxt8xLJ1Yw5eGA> or by emailing Marie at liebergm@gmail.com to get the link.

EcoTour of the Duwamish Village Park/ Shoreline Habitat

October 23 at 11:00 AM | RSVP

Join us on Saturday, October 23rd at 11:00 am for an EcoTour of the Duwamish Village Park and Shoreline Habitat! Learn about the history of the Duwamish Tribe with a guide from the Duwamish Longhouse! RSVP to Marie at liebergm@gmail.com.

Ballard Sunday Dinner

Our next three dinners for folks without homes are on October 17th, November 21st, and December 19th. Please sign up to help and enjoy the fellowship of cooking and serving together. We are still in take-out mode for everyone's safety. Sign up to help at this [LINK](#). Thanks!

Adult Forums: "Making a Way for Justice to Grow"

October 17, 10 AM (between services)

The Opening Doors Gospel lesson for the 17th is the feeding of the 5,000. Here is a miracle created from the provisions people brought in their picnic baskets, their willingness to share, and Jesus' re-imagining of how everyone could have enough. **What talents are in our picnic baskets and how can we use them for God's abundant vision?**

OCTOBER SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

Tuesday 10/5/21
Creative Thanksgiving Feast Meeting
Zoom, 7:00-8:00 PM

Sunday 10/10/21
Discussion of Caste with Racial Justice Advocates
Zoom, 2:00-3:30 pm

Monday 10/11/21
Racial Justice Advocates Meeting
Zoom, 7:15-8:30 pm

Sunday 10/17/21
Ballard Sunday Dinner
2:30-6:30 pm

Saturday 10/23/21
EcoTour of Duwamish Village Park & Shoreline Habitat
11:00 am -12:00 pm
Families welcome!

Monday 10/25/21
Racial Justice Advocates Meeting
Zoom, 7:15-8:30 pm



2400 NW 85th Street
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www.ourredeemers.net
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return service requested

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM - Informal

11 AM - Traditional

In-Person or

Virtually:

On Facebook:

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

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

October 31st is Commitment Sunday.

We need to fund two initiatives which are critical for both the present and the future flourishing of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church and our community. You are personally invited to prayerfully consider how you can dig deep, and share your God-given resources to build God's Church for generations to come.

Annual Mission Budget

Our mission budget for next year is \$600,000. We ask you to prayerfully consider a **one-year pledge** which can be fulfilled between January and December 2022.

Building Campaign

To pay off our mortgage, we must raise \$800,000. Please prayerfully consider a **three-year pledge** to be fulfilled between now and November 2024.

Please join us at 9AM or 11AM on October 31st to make your "Two Pledges for Two Purposes" commitment.



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