OCTOBER 2025



GOODNews

INSIDE Breaking Bread Dinners Recycling Saturday Cultivating Reformation & Confirmation Sunday Faith: ...and more A Season of Generosity **Beginning Oct 12th** Return What God Has Given Us

A Community in the Model of Christ

From the Pastor...

Re:Turning what God gives us

In the September Good News, I wrote, "the Christian faith and spirituality can be one of continual turning—reorientation and reformation, continuation and renewal, introspection and outreach. In a word, "return" is an embodiment of the Christian faith—turned towards God and neighbor, no longer fixated by our limitations and inadequacies—to be turned from one way, towards the road home."

This month, we return to our season of Generosity as a community. This year's generosity theme is "Cultivating Faith."

There is a famous painting by Lucas Cranach, which depicts reformers including Martin Luther drawing from a well and watering, as the painting is called, "The Vineyard of the Lord." While the word, *Quelle* in German can mean spring or source, the word "well" in English focuses more on a spring of water. That said, the idea of a spring of water or well as a source of faith or salvation, with its baptismal imagery and reflection on the stories in the scriptures at water wells is well–suited to Cranach and the Reformers' purpose.

Seeing this painting, it is not difficult to see the message behind the well; the world is God's vineyard, watered by the Word of God in Christ, the image of baptism, in which Christ and the gospel are drawn together as the source of salvation. With this imagery, conveying water as a gift, baptismal water as the conveyor of God's grace through faith in Christ follows shortly after. One might be drawn to remember that Jesus tells a Samaritan woman at a well, "those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in

them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life" (John 4:14). It seems that the *source* material was consulted!

For Luther, turning to Scripture and believing that Jesus promised salvation, returned a person to a relationship with God. It is God's gift of faith that turns us toward God and each other. To continually turn to Scripture is to turn towards God and be nourished by the word of faith. The practice of remembering one's baptism each morning is attributed to Luther, too—a reflection and remembrance of the source of nourishment which one returns to in remembering.

Lutheran views on redemption come through a sense of continual returning to this origin of faith, this source of healing and wholeness—reconciliation, repentance—that is poured out for us. True to our roots, this October and Generosity season returns us to our origins—heritage (for one thing), and certainly the source and cause of our gathering. That we turn again (return) to this wellspring that quenches our thirst for community, enough that all drink and are sated reminds us that it is God that at every turn, what we receive and the ways we strive to live are founded in and fulfilled by God's gifts to us, for and in our life together. We return to God what God first has given us, for the life of God's world.



Pastor Thomas Voelp



The Vineyard of the Lord

What's Happening in October

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OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

• Thomas Voelp, Pastor pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net (206) 783-7900 ext. 2

· Gian Foddai, Informal Worship & **Music Director** gianfranco@ourredeemers.net

• Kenna Hight, Faith Formation Coordinator faithformation@ourredeemers.net

 Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & **Music Director** karen@ourredeemers.net

• Debbie Lematta, Communications Coordinator communications@ourredeemers.net

· Lake Neill. Volunteer Coordinator volunteer@ourredeemers.net

• Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator administrator@ourredeemers.net

Office 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.



October 5, Sunday 9 AM - Informal Worship

10 AM ORCA Harbor Seals (5-11 y/o),

ORCA Sea Lions (6th grade)

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

10:15 AM Otters (3-5 y/o) 11 AM - Traditional Worship

October 6, Monday 5 PM - Church Ladies Beer Night | Old Stove Gardens

7 PM - Executive Team Meeting October 7, Tuesday

October 8, Wednesday 7 PM - Our Redeemer's Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary

10 AM - 2 PM - Volunteer Grounds Crew October 10, Friday

October 12, Sunday **GENEROSITY SUNDAY #1**

"NO SMALL POTATOES"

9 AM - Informal Worship

10 AM ORCA Harbor Seals (5-11 y/o),

ORCA Sea Lions (6th grade)

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

10:15 AM Otters (3-5 y/o) 11 AM - Traditional Worship

6 PM - Breaking Bread Dinners | Various Homes

October 15, Wednesday 12 PM - Staff Meeting

7 PM - Our Redeemer's Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary

6:15 PM - Monthly Youth Group Meet up | Next Level October 16, Thursday

Burger, Ballard

October 18, Saturday

E-CYCLING EVENT

10 AM-2 PM - Neighborhood E-Cycling Event | Our

Redeemer's Parking Lot

11 AM - Caring Community Team Meeting |

Our Redeemer's

October 19, Sunday **GENEROSITY SUNDAY #2**

"SEEDING YOUR FAITH"

9 AM - Informal Worship

10 AM ORCA Harbor Seals (5-11 v/o),

ORCA Sea Lions (6th grade)

10 AM - Embodied Church | Fellowship Hall

10:15 AM Otters (3-5 y/o) 11 AM - Traditional Worship

3-6 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner | Ballard First

Lutheran

October 22, Wednesday 7 PM - Our Redeemer's Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary

October 26, Sunday **GENEROSITY SUNDAY #3**

"HERE I STAMP"

REFORMATION SUNDAY

9 AM - Informal Worship

10 AM ORCA Harbor Seals (5-11 y/o),

ORCA Sea Lions (6th Grade)

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

10:15 AM Otters (3-5 y/o)

11 AM - Traditional Worship

6:30-8 PM - Autumn Movie Night: Over the Garden Wall + Seasonal Crafts & Games | Fellowship Hall

10 AM - 12 PM - Volunteer Grounds Crew October 27, Monday

October 29, Wednesday 7 PM - Our Redeemer's Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary

October 31, Friday Lutheran World Relief (LWR) In-Gathering |

Our Redeemer's Parking Lot



Mission Budget FY 2025 (6 mo. budget) 33.33% thru fiscal year

Our Redeemer's regularly publishes a Mission Budget report to keep congregants informed about the current financial health of the church.

You can also access the church's most recent Financial Snapshot at this url: https://bit.ly/3VQuCGF.

For questions or to set up giving, or to change your giving, contact Administrator, Karie Stearns at administrator@ourredeemers.net.



Income	2025 6mo Approved Budget	Income	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget Year to Date
Envelope & Loose Offerings	247,565	75,672	31%	(6,850)
Church Use	39,438	13,140	33.3%	(4)
Fundraising (Auction)*	-	-	-	
Interest	300	21	7.0%	(79)
Endowment Transfer of Funds*	20,000	4,705	23.86%	(1,867)
TOTAL INCOME	307,303	93,538	30%	(8,800)
Expenses	2025 6 mo Approved Budget	Expenses	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget Year to Date
Social Justice/Outreach	23,657	7,566	32.0%	(319)
Pastoral Staff	64,085	20,404	31.8%	(955)
Worship & Music	35,840	11,252	31.4%	(693)
Fellowship & Caring	5,247	1,344	25.6%	(405)
Faith Formation	26,887	5,249	19.5%	(3,713)
Stewardship	4,252	928	21.8%	(489)
Communications	25,199	7,644	30.3%	(755)
Facilities	63,084	17,455	27.7%	(3,571)
Administration	84,217	22,391	26.6%	(5,679)
TOTAL EXPENSES	332,468	94,232.95	28.3%	(16,579)
NET INCOME (Loss)	(25,165)	(695)		

^{*}Endowment will pay up to \$20,000 for expenses occurred for the faith formation position. Currently, those expenses are under budget. Therefore, the income from endowment funds are also under budget. For questions/concerns, to set up giving, or to chang your giving, please contact Administrator, Karie Stearns at <u>administrator@ourredeemers.net</u>. Thank you for your support!

Celebrating October Birthdays

- 1 Susan Ulrich-Angell
- 2 Tricia Kloth
- 2 Jean McCarthy
- 7 Denise Ecklund
- 7 Lily Lowe
- 8 Thomas Voelp
- 9 Kari Guddal
- 11 Patrick Brady
- 11 Jenny Fredericks
- 11 Max Perry
- 12 Melanie Olson
- 13 Lake Neill

- 15 Marie Brissette
- 15 Marjorie Minus
- 15 Elizabeth Prentice
- 16 Katlin Dickinson-Laurence
- 16 Karen Soine
- 16 Kari Trigstad
- 17 Linda Christensen
- 17 Dave Eicke
- 17 Tim Watkins
- 18 Elizabeth Beranek
- 18 Valerie Tung
- 19 Skylar Perry

- 22 Noel Wannebo
- 22 John Borgmeyer
- 23 Zach McCarthy-Fredericks
- 25 Paul Hendricks
- 26 John Ellingboe
- 26 Joey Niedner
- 27 Madeleine Fowler
- 28 John Gibson
- 28 Scott Chrisman
- 30 Maria Maier
- 31 Jordan Holt





Cultivating Faith: Generosity and Potatoes

Generosity: October 12 - November 9

November 9 - Commitment Sunday - Potato Potluck and Swedish Pancakes!

Turning over earth is an action of both preparing and plowing, but also in digging and harvesting. Turning over earth—for good or for ill—has been a practice of farming for many cultures and generations. The way to cultivate the soil and tend a farm, a garden, or an orchard is contingent on the need of the seeds planted. And what miracle plant fed generations of people? The potato!

This Generosity season, we lift up these starchy root vegetables, as we imagine the fruits of the Spirit and gifts for community God gives us, as we gain some down-to-earth perspectives on the humble potato. Our theme this year is "Cultivating Faith."

Each week, during Sunday services, different voices share stories of giving, and call us to consider the wide range of God's gifts we share and the ways we are called to give of ourselves and our resources. Guided by our lectionary and our creativity, each Sunday centers around a different theme and activity—thoughtful and fun crafts that help us explore and reveal what is being cultivated by our giving.

October 12 "No Small Potatoes"

We are given diverse forms and functions and we are each given value as people. We make potato-head-people. We ask: How do you cultivate the image of Christ in the church?

October 19 "Seeds of Faith"

We persistently plant from what is grown in us and we grow the seeds of potential ministry as a church. We make seed packets. We ask: How do we cultivate the seeds of faith in Christ's church?

October 25-Reformation Sunday "Here I Stamp"

We are given our own unique flavor profiles and inner lives and we are united by faith. We use potato stamps, and decorate our lanterns! We ask: How do you cultivate your stamp on church life?

November 2- All Saints' Sunday "Potato Power"

We have one light between us in Christ, which shines in the many colors of living faith. We make, assemble, and light our lanterns. We ask: How do we cultivate the life of Christ in church life?

November 9-Commitment Sunday "Tithing is the Thing"

Bring completed Commitment Cards and potato-based dish to share for the potluck! We give from what we have been given, and our community is fed by what we return in faith. We ask: Why would we cultivate a church?

Come by our crafting tables at 10:00 am each Sunday for a few minutes before heading to Faith Formation to create fun, potato-related art!





Ministry Spotlight: Returning to our Roots: Relationship Building by Pastor Thomas

Relationships are the cornerstone of all organizations, associations, and communities. Relationships are the way of life.

In Christ, we are called out of our lives lived to and for ourselves, and instead we live to God through our lives with and for each other. We are returned to the reality of our being; we are never not in relationship to someone or something in this world. And relationships take care, nurturing, and cultivation. And as with trust (faith), our relationships with those we care for and work with is something that develops over time. Community depends on relationships. And for all its challenges and gifts, church communities depend on quality, not quantity.

Grassroots organizing takes this to task; political advocacy and momentum depends on neighbors and strangers coming together and being united in purpose and effort. The task of advocacy (giving voice to) never ends, because as soon as one step is taken—a law is written or challenged, a need is fulfilled or awareness is spread, the community reorganizes, maintains, and grows from that step. It is a constant process. And what maintains this process, sustains and builds energy and keeps attention and awareness up? The relationships built between people.

For decades, grassroots organizing in houses of prayer has been a model many have pointed toward as examples of community organizing; a local network of people is united for a common purpose and seeks to grow and maintain its presence in their neighborhood to fulfill that purpose, and meet the needs of the community. What maintains it—the relationships of members.

"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday offered a time for intentional conversations around the needs of our community. Our purpose and mission insist our actions to maintain and sustain our presence in this place for one another and in our neighborhood for the wider community. Our relationships drive our ability and our energy to maintain, grow, and sustain this community and its needs for ministry. How well our church can fulfill our purpose is not dependent on the quantity of our ministries, but the quality of our ministry, and that depends on the quality of our awareness of our congregation's needs, and the quality of our awareness of each other.

Faith Formation is being reorganized (see article "God's Constant Community") to provide for our needs of fellowship and teambuilding—grassroots organizing—as a way of improving the quality of our ministries, a way of transforming our culture of being church. We take this turn in giving of ourselves and time on Sundays trusting that we can do what churches do well: providing intentional, joyful, and meaningful relationships that sustain our life and ministry in Christ's name.

Luciafest is December 14th Rehearsals Begin November 15

December 14 is the date for our annual Sankta Lucia celebration. This traditional Swedish celebration of Lucia's day will include Sankta Lucia and her attendants, Star Boys, Tomte, Scandinavian goodies, and dancing around the Christmas Tree. All youth ages 5 through 18 are invited to participate in this festival of light and hope for the Christmas season.

Rehearsal begin Saturday, November 15, 9–11AM. There are plenty of roles for anyone interested! Come join us in this fun annual Advent tradition at Our Redeemers. For information contact Marie Nordquist, lutequist@yahoo.com.





Return, Renew, Reform - October 26

This year, our Reformation Sunday celebration and confirmation ceremony lands on October 26. **Come, show your Lutheran church-spirit by wearing red, and supporting our confirmands and their families** as we celebrate their affirmation of baptism, and call to serve Christ's church and community!

As we gather around our confirmands on Reformation Sunday, we are reminded of the Lutheran perspective on grace, and how faith in Christ leads us to see the grace and presence of God in our daily living. In this celebration, we return to the waters that revealed for us the faith that returns us to God and one another—this gift that we can return to when the world draws us from trusting in God's love for this world, and the promise in hope that all one day will be freed from the limitations of sin and death, when Christ returns to fulfill the promise to return this world to God.

Return October 26 for Reformation Sunday, when we will turn again as a community toward the gifts that astem from faith, and turn towards the future God is giving us, confirming not only our baptism into Christ, but also our faith in our confirmands!



We give thanks to God that whether we live or whether we die, we know that we are gathered into community by the loving arms of Christ, and that all of us, finally and ultimately belong to God.

All Saints Photos - Faces of the Church

November 2nd is All Saints Sunday this year (also *dia de los muertos*, for those who celebrate), when the church commemorates the lives of those that rest in the arms of God. In addition, we celebrate the communion of the saints, living and dead—those who in Christ are united with him in the waters of baptism. We especially remember members our Our Redeemer's who have died this past year.

You are invited to bring a photo or memento of a loved one to place in the church windows surrounding our worship with the faces of loved ones and joined by them in the Spirit.

In reflection of this living communion of those God has called holy, with all peoples past, present, and future, our tradition of welcoming new members after the Journey has been included. This year, while we have prospective members and interested Journeyers, we will need to regroup and walk the Journey next year. Nevertheless, it is a joy to be joined in body and spirit by so many who are part of this community!

And, **if you would like to update your photo for a new directory** in the works, please come to church on Reformation Sunday or All Saints Sunday and have your photo taken!

Altar Task Force Update

The Altar Task Force, after lots of discussion and consideration, is ready to take the next step toward an actual design for a new and permanent altar. We are about to start this next phase.

The Altar Task Force appreciates your support and prayers as we move through this process.







God's Constant Community

The process of formation is constant. In ancient Greek, there is a grammatical invention that allows the constancy of an action to be encapsulated in speech. Several other languages possess this within declension or word case, but for English speakers, it is fixated on time. "Always transforming" is present-oriented but does not exactly convey a future, when transforming will also happen. "Will be transforming" is future-oriented, and only points to a process that begins at a fixed time. So, to say "God has been and always will be transforming the church" must be spelled out for the constancy of God's action to transform us and transform our community (church) to be conveyed.

Through Faith Formation we seek to explore, discover, learn, reflect, and learn again what God "has been and always will be doing" as a part of our church life, and our constant task is being informed, formed, reformed, and transformed by our faith in Jesus Christ. But there is one crucial detail of our transformation as people of faith: we cannot have faith unto ourselves. We share it, and it cannot help but be shared. Our perspective lens that is trust in God's righteousness (faith) cannot help but color the ways we perceive and live in the world.

If our church is to share and perceive together, though, we must take that time together. Right now, that time is limited. We may have special events outside Sundays to live and learn, but our consistent time for community on Sundays—into which we pour an overwhelming amount—is plus-or-minus 10:00 until 10:45 (until 10:30, for choir). This does not give us much time to focus, so we must be intentional to use our time well.

This Fall, we have revamped our Faith Formation with PNW themes;

- Otters (formerly Sprouts) group for ages 3-5 years old,
- Harbor Seals (ages 5-11 years, through 5th grade), and
- Sea Lions (6th grade).
- We will continue to provide Confirmation for 7th-8th graders when we have potential confirmands (looking toward Fall 2026).
- We are trying new ways to bring confirmation students and high-school youth together at least once per month—see the change in day and time.

We are reorganizing—lining up our themes and studies together so we can be formed by interaction and learning. **We are formed in faith to be community—a church that is teaching, is relating, is embodying, and is discerning God's gifts of faith.**Using a process of community organizing, each Sunday will be focused on a part of the process of this transformation, or *TREAD*, as in "tread care-full-y."

- First Sundays are **"Teaching" Church**, the goal being knowledge-building, when ideas help shape and direct us our growth as a community that explores and learns together.
- Second Sundays are **"Relating" Church**, the goal being team-building, when one-on-ones deepen our relationships, broaden our circles, and help shape and direct our growth as a community that discovers and works together.
- Third Sundays are **"Embodying" Church**, the goal being experience-building, when practices help shape and direct our growth as a community that discovers and worships together.
- Fourth Sundays are **"Asking and Discerning" Church**, the goal being mindfulness-building, when discussion and curiosity help shape and direct our growth as a community that reflects and discerns together.

With this revamping of Faith Formation as we take further steps to live into our values, sessions are focused on our needs not only for community-building and fellowship, but also our need to expand our faith tool kits for perceiving and living in the world, together.

Come take part in the process of treading the road of transformation. Come be part of community-building for our growth as people, as a community, and as a church!

Youth Group Thursday, October 16th, 6:15-7:30 PM

We are looking to change the time and date of our youth group meet ups each month, to accommodate busy schedules for you and your families! The proposed change is 3rd Thursdays of the month, 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm. At the next dinner, we'll discuss a location that fits as many needs as possible. If you or your youth can make the next meet up (Thursday, October 16), or you can help us determine the best time for us to meet, please let Pastor Thomas know ASAP! Friends welcome!



Update on Our Social Justice Ministry by Tom Bernard

Way back in late May we challenged the folks at Our Redeemers to get a little more pep into our Social Justice missions. Some felt that, with Covid and the church remodel, that we'd lost our way a little bit and needed to increase our focus on some of the social justice issues that we all feel so passionate about. Ten folks met on a Saturday morning and talked about where we need to focus. Great discussions happened and we broke into three sub groups:

- Refugees/immigration/Palestine and connecting with other organizations around these issues
- Hunger and shelter
- Earth ministry/e-cycling/connection with nature (creation care?)

We've already had three very successful, monthly drives for the Ballard Food Bank (mostly thanks to our amazing Stephanie Running and family) which continues this month and increased involvement with Ballard Sunday Dinner but we'd like to keep up the momentum. Mostly due to our fabulous Parish Administrator Karie Stearns, we've made great progress getting many of our Road to Housing guests into more permanent housing. We're still looking for someone to be in charge of our Thanksgiving Day feast and we're going to need a lot of other volunteers for this annual event.

For more information contact Tom Bernard (<u>tbernard@windermere.com</u>) or Stephanie Running (<u>ewrunning@earthlink.net</u>).



October Canned Food Drive

Throughout October we will be collecting canned foods to support our Ballard Food Bank. With cooler weather arriving, canned soups are especially welcome, but all canned items are appreciated. To make it fun, we're inviting a little friendly competition: Soup vs. Non-Soup! Which side will collect more donations? Hygiene items and other non-perishable foods are also gratefully accepted. Drop off your donations at church in the narthex Thank you for sharing God's blessings with others!







"Breaking Bread Together" Dinner

Sunday, October 12, 6 PM | Various Congregant Homes

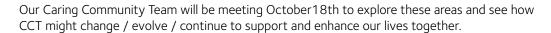
Feed your body and feed your soul and connect with others in our Our Redeemer's faith community. We are seeking host homes and participants for our quarterly potluck dinners. Each assigned group coordinates its own dinner details. Sign up as a host or participant via the sign-up sheet in the narthex or by email by contacting Annie McGrew (annemcgrew@msn.com) or Cindy Anderson (cindyrowanderson@gmail.com). Let's celebrate the joy of breaking bread together!

Sign up today to host or attend our next Breaking Bread Together Dinner October 12th and share a meal in community!

Caring Community Team...Evolving by Julie Vannoy

Our Redeemers Caring Community Team is an integral, often unseen ministry of our congregation. It is a ministry largely of support for our community as a whole, and also as a reach out ministry to those no longer able to join us in person. We have supported individuals in various ways who are in a difficult time, or joyous time of life.

In the Prayers of the People in a recent Sunday, we prayed that our congregation will grow in areas of Welcome, Hospitality and Accompaniment. These are areas our leadership is working to expand in our congregation, in accordance with our Mission statement.





Spring Auction 2026 - Planning Begins

Auction Date: March 7, 2026

Help us build the team for the 2026 Auction on March 7! The first planning meeting will be held October 8th, and all are invited to contribute. **Whether you bring creative ideas, administrative skills, or organizational know-how, your involvement will make a difference.** For more information or to join the team, contact Diana Myers at <u>auction. ourredeemers@gmail.com</u> or <u>dm3myers@gmail.com</u>. You can also reach out to the church office to get involved. Don't miss out on the collaboration and fun!





Gardening in Good Company

Upcoming Grounds Crew dates: October 10, 10 AM-noon October 27, 10 AM-noon

Join the Grounds Crew on Thursday, October 10 or Sunday, October 27, from 10 AM—noon to help transplant Black—eyed Susans, prune viburnum bushes below the sanctuary windows, and weed and tidy the east end near the basement entry. With slower—growing fall weeds, it's a great time to keep our grounds welcoming. Questions? Contact: Connie Sandstrom, conniesandstrom05@gmail.com.



2400 NW 85th Street Seattle, WA 98117

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

Church office hours:

Monday-Thursday 10 AM - 3PM



